

Appeasement does not work, Bush says, as Baghdad announces 'eternal' annexation of Kuwait

Iraq war fears grow as US troops arrive

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FEARS of a war in the Gulf were heightened yesterday after President Bush said appeasement did not work and likened President Saddam Hussein to Hitler, while Iraq announced the annexation of Kuwait.

President Mubarak of Egypt said he expected a massive military strike against Iraq and called an emergency Arab League summit to try to prevent outright conflict. Jordan declared a full military and police alert as the first American troops arrived in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Bush emphasised the defensive role of those troops when he made a television address yesterday morning, but he insisted: "If history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression or it will destroy our freedoms. Appeasement does not work. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbours."

Iraq had amassed an enormous war machine on the Saudi border and it would be unwise and unrealistic to assume that it would not attack that kingdom as it had Kuwait. Responding to reports that Iraqis were arming warplanes with chemical weapons, he said in a press conference later that their use would be intolerable and would be dealt with "very, very severely".

Mr Bush insisted that the troops being sent to Saudi Arabia would be part of a multinational force, almost

certainly including an Arab component. Britain yesterday confirmed that it would be sending naval and air forces to back up the American contingents, but stopped short of sending ground troops.

Turkey, Morocco and Egypt have all denied that they will also send forces to Saudi Arabia, but Bahrain airport will be closed today, raising speculation that it may be awaiting the arrival of Egyptian troops. There were also unconfirmed reports that America has set up a field hospital in Bahrain.

In his address from the Oval Office, Mr Bush said: "America does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny

of other nations. But America will stand by her friends. The mission of our troops is wholly defensive. They will not initiate hostilities, but they will defend themselves, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other friends in the Persian Gulf. No one should doubt our desire for peace and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression."

The first announcement of the annexation of Kuwait was deliberately timed to follow Mr Bush's speech. The statement broadcast on television declared "a comprehensive and eternal merger".

The Revolution Command Council has decided to return the party and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and the Iraq of its origins," it said, adding that the free provisional Kuwaiti government had appealed to the "kinfolk in Iraq, led by the knight of Arabs and leaders of their march President Field-Marshall Saddam Hussein, to agree that sons should return to their large family, that Kuwait should return to the great Iraq — the mother homeland — and to achieve complete merger unity between Kuwait and Iraq."

Britain's decision to send support forces came after a two-hour emergency cabinet meeting and after a telephone conversation between Margaret Thatcher and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the main aim was to deter an attack but he left no doubt that the British forces would not simply be there to guard installations.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office has protested to Iraq about the rape of a British Airways stewardess by an Iraqi soldier soon after the invasion on Thursday. The woman was attacked at a roadside as people on a stranded airliner were bussed into Kuwait City.

New North Sea strike today

By KERRY GILL

THE third stoppage in a week will hit the North Sea oil and gas industry today when thousands of contract workers will strike for 24 hours.

The action, called by the offshore industry liaison committee behind the recent unrest, is expected to affect platforms from the North Shetland basin to East Anglia. The strike comes at a time of increasing concern over world supplies and could affect Britain's oil supplies within months.

Ronald McDonald, chairman of the liaison committee, said last night: "We cannot tell how widespread it will be because we have a lot of our troops at home in the barracks". That was a reference to the strikers flown off the platforms after the previous two 24-hour strikes.

Earlier yesterday, it was hoped that a breakthrough in the dispute was possible. Bob Eadie, area officer of the electricians' and plumbers union, Ecpn, said the official trade unions had held informal talks with some of the employers in an effort to get dismissed workers reinstated. Details of the talks were not released.

Mr Eadie said: "I don't want to go overboard with optimism, but I can begin to see a resolution to this dispute."

The oil companies have condemned the strikes by men



Mrs Thatcher at the Eastbourne funeral yesterday for Ian Gow after she chaired the cabinet committee meeting on the Gulf conflict. Report, page 22

Thatcher sends air and naval units to Gulf

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH air and naval forces are to be sent to the Gulf to join a multinational effort to defend Saudi Arabia and other threatened countries from Iraqi aggression.

The decision was taken yesterday by an emergency meeting of the cabinet's overseas and defence committee chaired by Margaret Thatcher and came after a request for help from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. American troops and aircraft were arriving in Saudi Arabia last night.

The government's move received wide backing. Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, pledged to support "the deployment of British naval and air units in support of threatened states". He called for a blockade of oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

After the cabinet committee meeting Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in Downing Street: "The essential point is that Saddam Hussein now knows an attack on Saudi Arabia, were he to contemplate one, would not be an attack on Saudi Arabia alone."

The purpose of the action from Britain and the international community was to

deter any further acts of aggression by making it clear it would be expensive, damaging and destructive for Iraq. Mr Hurd said:

"After the two-hour meeting the defence ministry began consultations with the American government and other allies to agree the details of Britain's contribution. Warships and aircraft will be sent but the sending of ground troops is not envisaged at present."

The government received indications yesterday morning through diplomatic channels

that King Fahd wanted a multinational effort. Downing Street sources said: "On that basis the cabinet committee took its decision. At the end of the meeting the prime minister had an hour-long conversation with King Fahd who personally made the request for help and welcomed the government's decision. Mr Hurd said that Iraqi troops were close to the Saudi Arabian border. "There are no grounds for suspecting invasion is imminent but the Saudis are taking precautions."

Mr Hurd disclosed there would be an Arab element in the multinational force. "It is too soon to be precise but an effort is being made to involve contingents from Arab countries and the first signs are that this will happen."

Tom King, the defence secretary, who stood alongside Mr Hurd when he announced the government's decision, said: "Britain's contribution could be sent quite quickly. He emphasised their role would be to defend Saudi Arabia. Asked whether they would be involved in trying to retake Kuwait, he said: "No."

The cabinet committee is expected to meet again at Downing Street today.

Liberian rebels free four British hostages

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FOUR Britons were among 16 foreign hostages freed yesterday by Liberian rebels following the decision of West African states to send a multinational military force to Liberia in an attempt to end the civil war.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that British diplomats in Monrovia were waiting for the hostages to be brought from Caldwell in Liberia, where they were held, and arrangements would be made to fly the four to Britain as soon as possible. Three of the Britons were named as Terry Good, aged 67, a mining engineer from Essex; Seymour Grann, 32, a businessman from Cambridge; Paul Temple, 36, a timber merchant from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The fourth was not named because his next of kin had not yet been informed of his circumstances.

The hostages were seized at

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Bhutto trapped by travel ban

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S caretaker government, backed by the military, has banned Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister, from leaving the country as it became clear yesterday that the armed forces are determined never to let her return to power.

The interim government, headed by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister, regarded as little more than a front for the armed forces, has launched an investigation into Miss Bhutto's close family and political allies in an obvious attempt to discredit her and perhaps ban her from contesting future elections.

It looks certain that her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, will face trial. He too has been banned from going abroad.

The new prime minister insisted yesterday that elections will be held on October 24.

Nobody doubts that serious financial transgressions will be

Continued on page 22, col 1

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Degree results

Degrees from Newcastle university will be published tomorrow. Nottingham degrees appear today. Page 26

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IT IS EVERY young man's dream to score the winning goal for his local football team and milk the adulation of the supporters. Last night, in the unlikely setting of Aldershot, one such young man was the hero of the crowd after saving the fourth division club from extinction.

Spencer Tretthewy, aged 19, scored the financial winner for Aldershot by investing £200,000 of his own money in the club to beat a winding-up order which had threatened to lose the club. Football League status. Mr Tretthewy, who was educated at Epsom College and who has made his fortune in property, has followed Aldershot for the past five years. "I could not let them go under," he said. "The club deserved the money, and I am just pleased that I can help save

contracts on a new house. It was a joy for the supporters, too. "Words cannot explain how I feel," one said last night. "I thought we had reached the end and now all the debts are cleared and we can start again... it is just great."

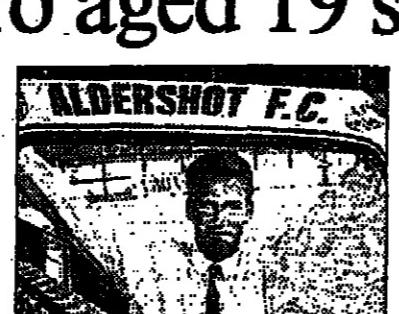
The Football League, faced with starting the season one team short, was also pleased, in spite of the winding-up petition having been adjourned until Wednesday for all debts to be cleared.

Mr Tretthewy, who once played for the Nottingham Forest youth team, has now made his mark in football. He will join the Aldershot board of directors and plans a sponsorship deal with his property company in September. "I am a business man and obviously I will be applying my business sense to how things are run

but I will not be making any money out of it," he said. The £100,000 he paid yesterday helped to clear outstanding debts of £376,145. The sponsorship deal is worth £60,000 with a further £40,000 two-year deal next season.

Mr Tretthewy's path to goal has been carefully considered. In recent months he had been monitoring the club's position. "The figure owed by the club kept changing and it has not been until now that it has all come together," he said. "I did consult my parents and they were delighted. They have always given me advice."

For Mr Tretthewy and the club, which was formed in 1926, the serious business starts now. "I have big plans for the club and it is now up to the players to start winning some games," he said. "I don't accept second best."



Tretthewy yesterday: "I could not let the club go under."

it." Mr Tretthewy's donation has been a godsend for the club's 13 full-time professionals who had been training every day for ten weeks without pay and some of whom had their telephones disconnected. The wife of one player was expecting a baby any day and another had just exchanged

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: CONFRONTING IRAQ

Reports on missiles and chemical arms fuel American fears

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush disclosed yesterday that Iraqi troops were deploying powerful surface-to-surface missiles while American intelligence reports suggested that Iraqi troops have also been testing what appeared to be chemical weapons on to their military aircraft.

Further reports here yesterday suggested that the Iraqis have secretly deployed dozens of Iraqi fighter aircraft in Yemen, on the other side of Saudi Arabia from Iraq.

These actions by Iraq, combined with its massing of what Mr Bush called "an enormous war machine" on the Saudi border, apparently shook the Saudi leadership and were said to have been decisive factors in the Saudi decision on Monday to ask American troops to defend the kingdom.

Iraq has several thousand

tons of deadly chemicals which it has used during its eight-year war with Iran and on its own Kurdish population, and could well use them against Saudi and American troops if it decides to invade.

Though Mr Bush did not identify the missiles, they are thought to include Soviet-made Scud-B missiles with a range of up to 375 miles. They illustrate the formidable threat the American forces face.

At the same time, as administration spokesmen had divulged in briefings, the Iraqis were continuing to build up their forces in Kuwait to a level far higher than required for occupation. They were repositioning troops, marking the Saudi border, mobilising more divisions in Iraq, and sending more tanks to Kuwait.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, arrived in Jeddah on Monday morning armed with satellite photographs and intelligence reports illustrating what Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, called the "imminent threat" to Saudi Arabia, and these helped him persuade the House of Saudi to accept US military help.

From that point on, until the first American troops were in place yesterday morning, the administration strove to keep the operation secret. It feared that if the military movements leaked out, they could provoke President Saddam Hussein into launching an instant pre-emptive strike on Saudi Arabia, and the Saudis' nerve might crack.

Military bases on America's east coast were placed on alert and sealed, the troops inside forbidden to communicate even with relatives. The Pentagon adopted a policy of strict silence. President Bush informed congressional leaders of his plans early on Tuesday morning but swore to secrecy.

The strategy worked until shortly after 4pm that day when CBS television interrupted its normal programmes to announce that American troops were being ordered to Saudi Arabia. Cable News Network and the wire agencies swiftly corroborated the report from their own sources. The White House and the Pentagon refused to provide confirmation, however, insisting that there were pressing strategic reasons for not doing so.

That the news leaked out was a source of concern in the administration yesterday, but in the event it did not prove disastrous. Two more immediate concerns here yesterday were the fate of more than four thousand Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait at the mercy of President Saddam, and the danger of prolonged American military involvement in another Middle Eastern "quagmire".

He did so in the Gulf war against Iran, with devastating effect. UN investigators who visited Iran in March 1986 reported that "on many occasions, Iraqi forces have used chemical weapons against Iranian forces", and concluded that the main agent used had been mustard gas, together, on some occasions, with nerve gas.

Official British sources were yesterday under instructions not to speculate publicly about the possibilities, but independent experts have no doubt that if threatened the Iraqis will retaliate with chemical weapons. President Saddam has substantial stocks to call upon. Elizabeth Sigmund, a British specialist, says that mustard gas is produced at a factory at Samara in Iraq at the rate of 60 tons a month, while the nerve gas, sarin, is produced at another plant, al-Fallujah, at the rate of four tons a month.

The method of attack favoured by the Iraqis in the Gulf war was delivery of the agents from aircraft, which makes command of the skies vital. From the attackers' point of view, this method has the advantage that the aircraft dropping the agents do not need to wear hot and uncomfortable protective clothing, while those who are attacked must do so. If the Iraqis are denied air superiority, they could alternatively fire the chemical agents in artillery shells.

To stand any chance against chemical weapon attack, military personnel deployed in the Gulf will need to wear a protective suit, a respirator, inner and outer gloves, and boots. All British troops are trained in the use of such equipment, but dislike it because of the heat and discomfort, which is likely to be severe in the Gulf.

The object of the protective suits is to prevent the inhalation of chemical agents and contact with the skin. The US forces in Saudi Arabia will be isolated from centres of civilian population, making them easy targets. Any retaliation in kind by the US troops against Iraqi targets would almost certainly affect non-combatant Kuwaitis, Iraqis, or foreign hostages held by President Saddam. This will make it difficult for the US to threaten Iraq with chemical weapons.

Robert Samuelson, a Washington Post columnist, wrote:

"The stakes in this crisis are enormous... the US may be on the verge of a large-scale and permanent military commitment in a dangerous region."

Gulf troops may face risks from chemical arms

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FOREIGN troops deployed in the Gulf, either on the ground or on board ship, could face the awkward prospect of defending themselves against Iraqi chemical weapons. President Saddam Hussein has shown himself ready to use such weapons, banned by the Geneva Convention of 1925, in pursuit of his objectives.

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The object of the protective suits is to prevent the inhalation of chemical agents and contact with the skin. The

eyes, nose, throat, chest and respiratory system must all be protected. In the case of nerve agents, it is possible to take medical pre-treatments to reduce the effects, and some protective suits are fitted with auto-injectors which automatically detect the presence of the agent and inject the wearer with the drug atropine, which counters the effect of the nerve agents in the bloodstream.

Without such protection, nerve agents such as sarin, developed in Germany during the 1940s, quickly attack the central nervous system, causing breathing problems, vomiting, convulsions and death. Inhalation of a concentration of just one tenth of a gram per cubic metre of air will incapacitate the victim in one minute, and kill in two.

Mustard gas causes burns, blisters and blindness if allowed to penetrate protective clothing.

While ground-based forces are aware, at least in principle, of the dangers of chemical weapons, naval vessels could also be vulnerable in the narrow waters of the Gulf. Some are fitted with air filtration systems but it is not clear how effective these would prove in combat, and there is a danger that the closed air-circulation systems in ships could be effective in distributing the poison to the crew.

Iraqi Kurds, attacked by President Saddam with chemical weapons, claim that the Iraqi leader has also used biological agents against them, including typhoid and cholera "bombs" dropped from aircraft. But in battlefield conditions such primitive biological weapons would be unlikely to prove effective.

From Iraq's point of view, however, the situation for the deployment of chemical weapons could hardly be more favourable.

The US forces in Saudi Arabia will be isolated from centres of civilian population, making them easy targets. Any retaliation in kind by the US troops against Iraqi targets would almost certainly affect non-combatant Kuwaitis, Iraqis, or foreign hostages held by President Saddam. This will make it difficult for the US to threaten Iraq with chemical weapons.

Robert Samuelson, a Washington Post columnist, wrote:

"The stakes in this crisis are enormous... the US may be on the verge of a large-scale and permanent military commitment in a dangerous region."

Paul Spedding, of Kleinwort Benson, says only a small proportion of the lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies could be replaced in the short term. Non-Arab Opec producers, such as Venezuela, are also not inclined to break their cartel quotas. Non-Opec producers such as Canada, the United States and Mexico, which exports 1.2 million barrels per day, are already up to their full short-term capacity, since they are not constrained by quotas. Production from the North Sea is temporarily depressed by summer maintenance work, and there are fears that the continuing industrial action there could hit supplies.

While Opec output has risen for most of the year, total non-Opec production has

fallen. Second-quarter non-Opec output was about 32.8 million barrels per day, 320,000 barrels per day less than the first quarter. In three months, the equation may be

different. Spare production capacity, including smaller non-Opec producers, may be about four million barrels per day. Unfortunately, three-quarters of this would have to

come from Gulf or Arab states. Ian Bourne, of *Petroleum Economist*, suggests that the Saudis could produce an extra two million barrels per day, the United Arab Emirates



President Bush making his televised speech from the Oval Office yesterday

Ankara exports seized in line with sanctions

From AMELIA FRENCH IN ISTANBUL AND RASIT GURDILEK IN ANKARA

ALL Turkish exports to Iraq are reported to have been seized following Ankara's decision to cut off the Iraqi oil pipelines on its territory in line with the United Nations Security Council's sanctions against Iraq.

A Foreign Office spokesman said no lorries had passed through the main transit point at Hamur since yesterday morning, although the Turkish government has made an exception for food and medicine on humanitarian grounds. Reports said thousands of Turkish tanker lorries had queued up on the Iraqi side of the border trying to get back into Turkey.

Meanwhile, internal pres-

sures began building for a more cautious approach as the United States and Iraq moved closer to a military showdown.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was expected in Ankara today for talks with President Ozal and other officials. It was speculated Mr Baker would try to persuade Ankara to join or facilitate a military move against Iraq.

A squadron of long-range American F111 bombers was ready at a US air base in southern Turkey 375 miles from the Iraqi border. But government officials denied media reports that Turkish air bases in the southeast have been reinforced with squadrons of new F16 jets and

British-made Rapier air defence missile batteries.

Yildirim Akbulut, the Turkish minister, met separately yesterday with defence and foreign ministers and General Necip Torumay, the chief of general staff. General Torumay said it was not in question "for the time being" that Turkish troops would take part in the "multi-national force" to be deployed in Saudi Arabia. Safa Giray, the defence minister, denied reports that the army has been put on alert. Mr Akbulut, meanwhile, evaded questions over whether Turkey would allow the US to use its bases against Iraq.

Turkey's parliament has been summoned from recess to an emergency session set for Friday after the opposition Social Democrats expressed concern over developments.

Sources close to the government say Ankara was not enthusiastic to join a US intervention "singly or jointly with other members of the Nato alliance". If an intervention becomes inevitable, the proper way for that could be the assignment of an international task force by the United Nations, they say.

The Turkish embargo on trade with Iraq is expected to cost Turkey an estimated \$3 billion (about £1.6 billion) per year, according to newspaper reports. The losses will be felt in exports, the construction industry and on the fees levied for transporting oil from Iraq through Turkish territory.

Before the Nato meeting, the 12 EC ministers will meet briefly to break a European position. A suggestion that the Soviet Union should be told the results of the Nato meeting was well received.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, will brief a meeting here of Nato's foreign ministers tomorrow on American actions. He will travel to Brussels from Ankara where he has seen President Ozal. Other ministers are expected to report their own countries' actions and agree a common line of policy.

In the last few days I've spoken with political leaders from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and I've met with Prime Minister Thatcher, Prime Minister Mulroney, and Nato Sec-

Bush delivers rallying cry to Americans

President Bush's televised speech to the American people yesterday on his decision to send forces to Saudi Arabia

IN THE life of a nation, we're called upon to define who we are and what we believe... Today, as president, I ask for your support in a decision I've made to stand up for what's right and condemn what's wrong, all in the cause of peace...

I took this action to assist the Saudi government in the defence of its homeland. No one commits American armed forces to a dangerous mission lightly, but after perhaps unparalleled international consultation, and exhausting every alternative, it became necessary to take this action... Let me tell you why...

(Iraq's) aggression came just hours after Saddam Hussein specifically assured numerous countries in the area that there would be no invasion. There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression. A puppet regime, imposed from the outside, is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable.

No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace, and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression. Four simple principles guide our policy:

□ First, we seek the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait;

□ Second, Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored to replace the puppet regime;

□ Third, my administration, as has been the case with every president from President Roosevelt to President Reagan, is committed to the security and stability of the Gulf;

□ Fourth, I am determined to protect the lives of American citizens abroad...

The stakes are high. Iraq is already a rich and powerful country that possesses the world's second-largest reserves of oil, and over a million men under arms. It's the fourth largest military in the world.

Our country now imports nearly half the oil it consumes, and could face a major threat to its economic independence. Much of the world is even

• We must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms •

more dependent on imported oil and is even more vulnerable to Iraqi threats.

We succeeded in the struggle for freedom in Europe because we and our allies remained stalwart. Keeping the peace in the Middle East will require no less.

We're beginning a new era. This new era can be full of promise, an age of freedom, a time of peace for all peoples. But if history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbours... Twice we have seen what his promises mean... nothing.

In the last few days I've spoken with political leaders from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and I've met with Prime Minister Thatcher, Prime Minister Mulroney, and Nato Sec-

the higher oil price to South American, African and Far Eastern producers will provide cash for investment held back by debt and austerity over the past few years.

The enigmatic missing link in the oil equation is the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer. Soviet output is thought to be running at about 11.8 million barrels per day this year, down from 12.8 million barrels per day two years earlier. The decline is due to technical and internal economic problems, rather than to any rundown in reserves. The oil industry believes that Soviet output could be much higher from existing fields, that other fields lack development, and there are far more reserves than the proven 13 years' supply.

How quickly output could be raised, given technical assistance from international oil companies, is the great unknown. Saudi Arabia will remain the key to the market, owning a quarter of the world's known reserves. An open Soviet Union could eventually become the best counterweight to Opec.

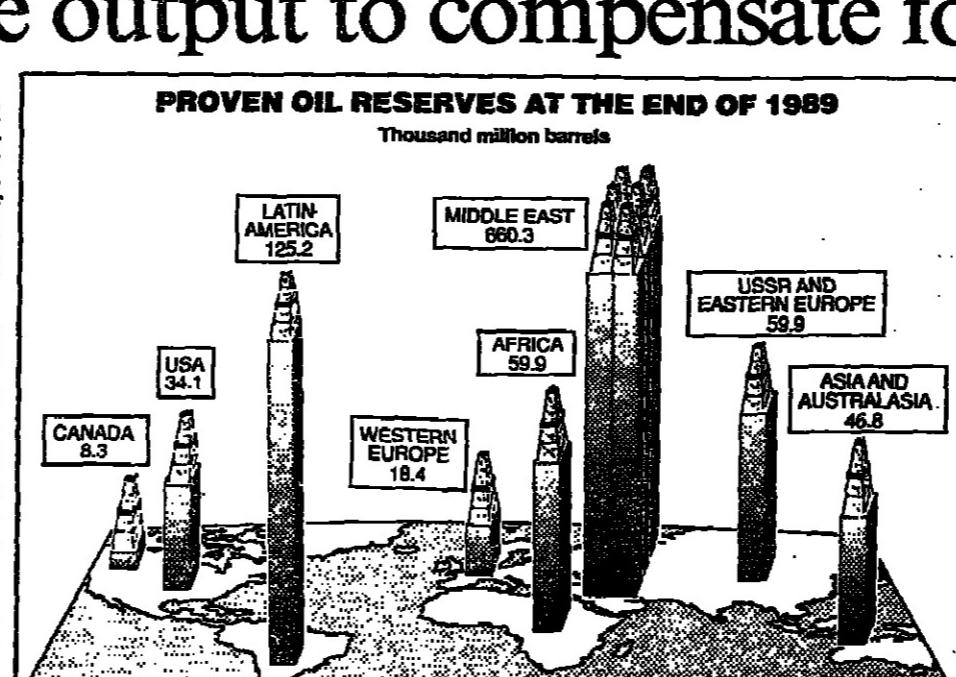
Opec states ready to raise output to compensate for loss of supplies

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

MEMBERS of Opec, the cartel of oil-producing nations, yesterday indicated they would be prepared to increase output to compensate for the loss of supplies from Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, United States government sources indicated that they had been working behind the scenes to guarantee world supplies.

Opec states agreed at the end of July, just as Iraqi troops were massing on the Kuwaiti border, to limit oil production to 2.25 million barrels per day. But oil analysts said the latest Opec remarks implied that the producers were willing to dispense with production quotas.

Refiners have rushed to build up stocks of oil in the short term, raising demand above normal, resulting in a sharp cut in supply. The immediate impact on prices should be eased somewhat by the release of oil from the American strategic stockpile. Only over a period, therefore, will the true effect of the loss of up to 8 per cent of world oil production emerge. If the embargo on oil from Kuwait and Iraq



fallen. Second-quarter non-Opec output was about 32.8 million barrels per day, 320,000 barrels per day less than the first quarter. In three months, the equation may be

different. Spare production capacity, including smaller non-Opec producers, may be about four million barrels per day. Unfortunately, three-quarters of this would have to

come from Gulf or Arab states. Ian Bourne, of *Petroleum Economist*, suggests that the Saudis could produce an extra two million barrels per day, the United Arab Emirates

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: TENSION IN THE GULF

Saddam sets his nation on road to conflict

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S uncompromising statement yesterday, that it had annexed Kuwait, was couched in language that has convinced many observers that President Saddam Hussein is becoming increasingly unstable and has put Iraq and America on a collision course.

In a deliberate attempt to maximise tension, the Iraqi leader ordered Baghdad radio to trail the annexation announcement 'repeatedly' as a means of securing world attention. In the morning, the radio broke into its normal programme to say, before the patriotic music began: 'All Iraqis, all Arabs everywhere, wait and listen to an important announcement on a great and joyful day in your lives and struggle.'

The message of Baghdad's declaration, read on Iraqi television, was clear: there would be no climbdown over last week's blatant seizure of Kuwait.

The Iraqis appealed for Arab unity, ignoring Arab criticism of Iraq's aggression, and told the world: 'All navy fleets and squadrons inside and outside the Arab homeland will not shake us.'

The provocative announcement came in two parts, the first purporting to be an appeal for a merger from the puppet regime installed by Iraq in Kuwait after the invasion, and the second from the Revolution Command Council that runs Iraq under Saddam's direction.

The command council's broadcast declared 'an eternal and comprehensive merger'.

British refugees arrive in Jordan

From RICHARD OWEN
IN AMMAN

MORE than twenty disbelieved and rather bewildered Britons arrived here last night, one of the small groups of foreigners who have made the overland journey from Iraq to Jordan in the past two days.

The British refugees were met by an army of British journalists assembled in Amman to report on what they believed would be a flood of British and other refugees. But there was no sign of any large-scale exodus from Iraq, despite earlier indications from Jordanian officials that the Iraqi authorities would allow hundreds, if not thousands, of foreigners to leave.

Earlier this week, Iraq and its puppet regime in Kuwait indirectly threatened the well-being of foreign citizens by suggesting that they would be held as hostages if the West imposed economic sanctions. The promise of open borders appeared to reduce this threat. But it emerged yesterday that Iraq was allowing out only those who already possessed exit visas.

A group of nine West German businessmen also arrived yesterday after a 20-hour journey by bus. 'It was very tiring. We are smelly and tired and we need showers,' one of them said. He said there had been many roadblocks along the way, but they had been allowed to pass. He said the group had organised the 600-mile journey itself.

The only mass exodus yesterday was of Egyptian workers fleeing from Kuwait across Saudi Arabia. Relations between Egypt and Iraq are tense, and many Egyptians working in Iraq and Kuwait fear they will be the target of Iraqi hostility. Egyptian diplomats said that about 3,000 Egyptian workers had arrived at the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba. The exodus had been 'completely chaotic', says said.

Two Iraqi Airlines aircraft have reached Amman carrying a number of Japanese and European refugees. But a camera crew from Sky Television was detained yesterday and had its film confiscated when it tried to interview French refugees. Officials said the flight from Baghdad to Amman had not officially existed.

Italian diplomats later said that Iraqi troops had turned back at least one convoy of eight to ten cars which had tried to enter Jordan from Iraq. This group was obliged to return to a hotel in Baghdad.

There was no sign that any of the hundreds of foreigners who were rounded up in Kuwait City this week and taken to Baghdad had been among the trickle of refugees arriving in Jordan.

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq could have brushed aside world condemnation of his invasion of Kuwait and attempted to outmanoeuvre the international trade, arms and oil embargo. Now, America's military build-up in Saudi Arabia confronts him with the first real deterrent. But will it stop him?

When Pentagon chiefs prepared contingency plans for President Bush, they must have considered the worst possible scenario, which is that President Saddam would order his troops to use nerve gas and other chemical weapons. Yesterday's unconfirmed reports that Iraqi aircraft were seen loading poison gas weapons indicates that the worst scenario may be the one favoured by President Saddam. But he has to take into account, the American response.

The combat aircraft and long-range bombers that are being sent to the area can be equipped with tactical nuclear bombs. It seems most unlikely that America would venture into this type of conflict without a nuclear capability. The danger is that President Saddam, having used chemical weapons indiscriminately in the past, against the Iranians and against the Kurdish community in northern Iraq, may have no compunction in launching such deadly weapons on the forces ranged against him in Saudi Arabia.

The American combat units arriving in Saudi Arabia, all of which will have to be supplied with NBC kit (nuclear, biological and chemical protective clothing), can be used only to protect the Saudi air bases and other key installations. But the fire-power and accuracy of American and Saudi bombers — and the nuclear weapons President Saddam has to believe are on board the aircraft — could be the decisive factor. Potentially, America must have plans to send a vastly increased military presence.

One indicator is the deployment of elements of the 18th Airborne Corps, which is based at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. This is the co-ordinating headquarters for three American units, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 1st Special Operations Command. Elements of all those forces are being sent to Saudi Arabia and, once in place, they could be expanded if necessary.

The 82nd Airborne Division, which has a total of 12,800 men, is divided into three airborne infantry brigades, each with three battalions, and artillery support, consisting of 105mm light guns.

The division is also equipped with high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles with TOW anti-tank missile systems.

The 82nd, whose nickname, 'All American', is inscribed on uniform badges, is the main fast-assault division in America, trained to go anywhere in the world. They travel in CSA Galaxy transport aircraft.

The 101st, whose total strength is 15,400 men, is trained for long-range air assault operations deep into the enemy's rear areas to destroy key installations and forces at night, using blacked-out helicopters flown by air crews wearing night vision goggles and, in the case of AH-64 Apaches, forward-looking infrared systems.

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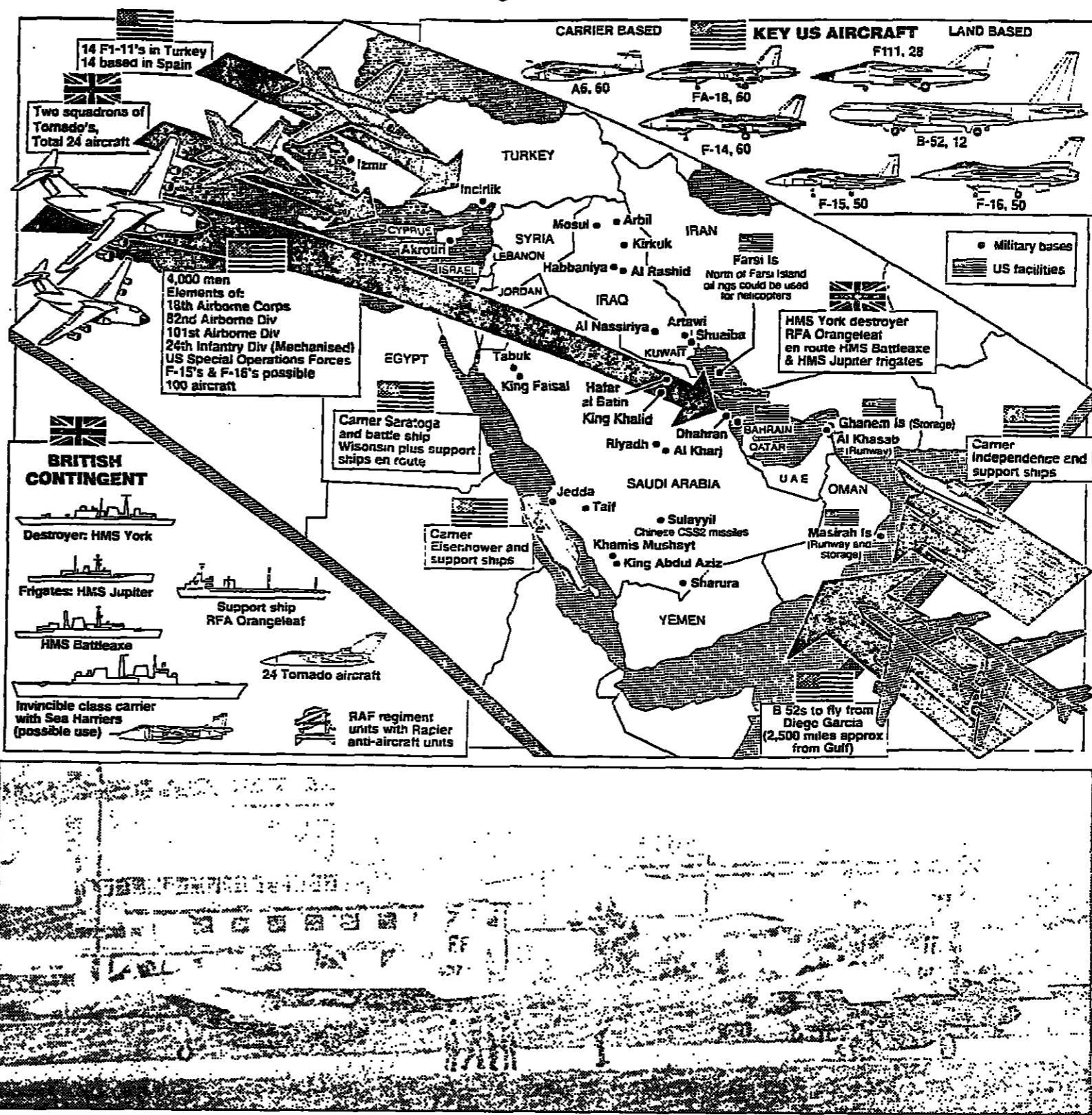
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Combined air power key to halting Saddam



F15 jets equipped with external fuel tanks being checked at Langley Air Force base in Virginia before taking off for the Middle East

Their 'sister' unit, the 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, is the only air assault division in the world. Known as the 'Screaming Eagles', the 101st, which is not a jumping paratroop division, has three infantry brigades, with a total of nine battalions, each armed with 20 TOW anti-tank weapons.

The brigades are supported by an aviation brigade with Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters for troop transport. It also has 18 Apache and 18 Cobra armour-fighting helicopters, referred to as 'tank killers'.

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Jordan warns of Arab backlash as US intervenes

From RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

JORDAN yesterday warned the United States that military intervention would provoke a 'serious backlash' of Arab opinion'. Arab states which had previously condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait would swing behind the Iraqi president as a self-styled leader of the Arab nation fighting Western domination.

But Crown Prince Hassan, speaking on behalf of the ruling Hashemite monarchy, insisted that Jordan was 'neutral' in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict and denied that Jordan would send troops to help Iraq if war broke out.

Troops and police in Jordan

have been placed on high alert. Many foreigners are quietly packing bags and making discreet arrangements to leave property in local hands 'in case the balloon goes up', as one American businessman put it.

Many of Jordan's large Palestinian population hope a jihad, or holy war, led by President Saddam Hussein would obliterate Israel and re-establish a Palestinian state.

'We think what Saddam Hussein did was right,' said Moussa, a chemical engineering student, aged 18, whose parents fled to Jordan from Ramla in what is now Israel. 'Palestinians in Kuwait were

treated like second-class citizens, and the ruling family was corrupt.'

Another Palestinian boy said angrily: 'When the United States invaded Panama, nobody asked why.' When asked if Iraq might attack Israel, his eyes lit up. 'We would all rush to join the Iraqi army to fight Israel.'

At the royal palace, Crown Prince Hassan appeared dejected by the latest events. He said Jordan remained convinced that Saudi Arabia had no intention of cutting the flow of Iraqi oil through the pipeline running from Iraq to the Saudi Red Sea coast. 'Those egging the situation on

and predicting an Iraqi pre-emptive strike are all inciting what we least want,' the Crown Prince declared. As a result of the campaign against President Saddam 'the image of the ugly Arab is being built up. The blame for all the problems of the world is going to be laid at our door.'

He said Jordan was not on the side of either Iraq or Kuwait but 'on the side of Arab order'.

The description of Jordan as 'an ally' of Iraq was incorrect. Asked if Jordanian troops would go to the aid of Iraq, he replied: 'We already have our hands full preserving Jordan's sovereignty.'

There was no rush yesterday by Jordanians or Palestinians to join President Saddam's allegedly volunteer 'popular army' in occupied Kuwait, despite the fervour of young Palestinians.

Although Jordan has not recognised the new 'Republic of Free Kuwait' or its Iraqi-installed puppet regime, relations are said to be tense between Kuwaiti diplomats and the Jordanian government following King Hussein's praise of President Saddam as an 'Arab patriot'.

'I believe Saddam Hussein is a man who has gone through a very difficult experience, who managed to hold his

country together for over eight years of war, who believes in the Arab world and seeks to serve it,' King Hussein said this week. Yesterday the *Jordan Times* echoed the official view, noting that 'President Saddam is not a new Hitler nor is he a loose tiger. He is an Arab patriot, whose higher ideal is the service of the Arab peoples and their interests.'

Attempts to destabilise President Saddam would backfire, the paper declared.

'All Arabs would come to Iraq's help if it was attacked by the US, Israel or any other foreign power. Those Arabs who acquiesce in such aggression will be doomed.'

But the Iraqi invasion force of about 100,000 men and 350 tanks, in Kuwait, can be moved out only if there is a direct ground-force confrontation with the Americans, backed by multinational forces. If Iraq were to invade Saudi Arabia with all its mobilised forces — more than a million men — the Americans would have no choice but to move in troops from Western Europe.

America could launch air strikes on Iraqi oil fields and other industrial targets, in an attempt to destroy the country's economy or bomb troop supply lines in southern Iraq to isolate the occupation force in Kuwait.

How Saudi caution gave way to a cry for Washington's help

By JAMES CRAIG

DECISIONS taken by the government of Saudi Arabia in recent days must have been agonising. They would have been difficult enough in all conscience for any government. But the Saudis face special restraints. Their foreign policy, in line with their temperament, is traditionally cautious and conservative. They do not see things in black and white, do not change course easily, and prefer evolution to confrontation.

There is reason as well as instinct behind this approach. In recent years they have been the chief, sometimes the only, mediator in inter-Arab disputes, qualified for this role by their wealth, their position in Opec, their position as guardians of the holy places of Islam, and the standing of King Fahd. And they have always felt that a mediator who takes sides can no longer mediate.

In this crisis, they would have had to judge the moment when their plight as potential victims

outweighed their role as potential mediators. This judgement would have been made more difficult by anxiety lest provocative actions or words might themselves precipitate an Iraqi attack. There is nothing dishonourable about such anxiety: their forces, though well equipped, are so much smaller than Iraq's as to be in a different league.

The Saudis have always been committed to the ideal of Arab unity, to the notion that even if a united Arab state is not practicable, Arabs should sort out their own problems without outside intervention. The imminence of a military attack, the blatant and manifestly growing ambition of President Saddam Hussein, and the sense of obligation to a third Arab state, Kuwait, and to its ruling family overruled all these restraints. Gratitude to the al-Sabahs of Kuwait will have been an important factor: not only are the al-Sabahs members of the same trade union, so to speak, but it was from asylum in Kuwait in 1901 that Ibn

Saud, the founder of Saudi Arabia, launched the commando raid on Riyadh which recovered his father's usurped domain. This claim on Saudi support, even though it is 90 years old, will not have been forgotten.

The decision will have been taken by King Fahd himself, but not without wide and long consultation. There is no institutional democracy in Saudi Arabia, no parliament, no elections. But the king has a large public *majlis* (council) which any citizen can attend and where anyone can give his view; and smaller gatherings for notables in all walks of life where the issues of the day are discussed. The senior members of the royal family, including Prince Saud al-Faisal, the foreign minister, are always consulted. Senior military officers will of course have been called in for professional advice.

But it is the king who, having weighed up all these opinions, will have had the final say. It is significant that he has always been attached to the Americans

tion. That attachment has been criticised. The Americans, largely because of their support for Israel, have not always been popular in the kingdom. But King Fahd seems to have held consistently to the view that in the last resort the United States was Saudi Arabia's most reliable and most effective support. Today it looks as if he has been proved right.

It must have been a dramatic scene in the *majlis* when the king sat surrounded by his advisers and told them of the arguments and assurances put forward by the American defence secretary who was visiting him on behalf of President Bush. The advisers, having said their piece earlier, would have listened and waited for the fateful decision. Finally, it came. Not perhaps a democratic process in the Western sense of the word; but not so very different from what in this case has happened in Washington and London.

Sir James Craig is a former British ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Prince Sand: among the men consulted by the king

King Fahd: final decision to involve US rested with him

4

Now you can have a

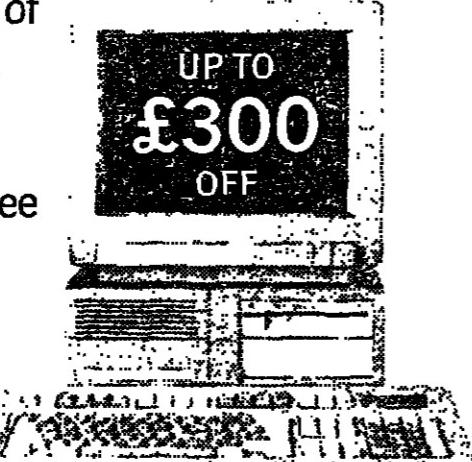
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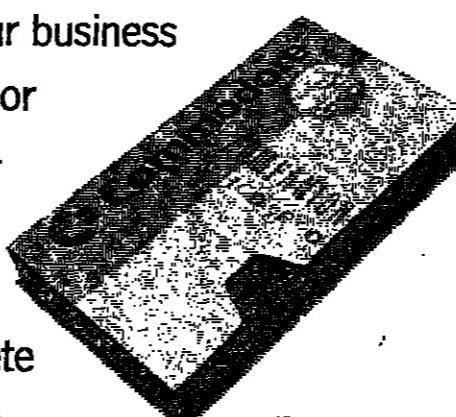


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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: BRITAIN

Hurd rules out recall of MPs as tension rises

By PHILIP WEBSTER and ANDREW MC EWEN

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday ministers saw no grounds for a recall of Parliament because of the rising tension in the Gulf.

Speaking after the Downing Street meeting to discuss developments, Mr Hurd rejected any idea that the government accepted the occupation of Kuwait as a fait accompli. "Far from it," he said. "We are announcing a contribution to deterring an Iraq attack either on Saudi Arabia or on the other threatened states in the area." The UN Security Council resolution had made clear that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait.

Questioned about the nature of Britain's contribution, Mr Hurd said it was too early to be specific. "That is what will be discussed with our allies, with the Saudis and possibly with other Gulf states," he said.

Tom King, defence secretary, speaking after Mr Hurd, said: "We want to ensure the contribution we make is one that is effective, in line with the contribution being made by the United States and will complement what the Saudi government and the Saudi forces are capable of themselves." Mr Hurd said the government was "talking essentially of naval forces and air forces".

The foreign secretary said he had sent a message to the Iraqi foreign minister reminding him of the responsibility of the Iraqi government for the safety of British citizens in Iraq and Kuwait so long as Kuwait was under Iraqi military occupation.

He said Britain's ambassador in Kuwait had arranged for wives and dependants of the liaison team to move from

their encampment to a hotel in Kuwait where they hoped they would be safer and more comfortable.

"We are taking various other diplomatic steps with our friends and allies to try to ensure the safety and evacuation of as many of our citizens from Kuwait and Iraq as we can," he said.

The question of evacuation through Jordan was being considered and being tried but with no great success. Mr Hurd said the best answer was to reopen Kuwait airport so that Western citizens, including British, who wish to leave Kuwait could do so.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said Labour would endorse the deployment of British naval and air units in support of threatened states and in support of the UN resolution.

The Labour party believes that a UN naval force should blockade oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait in the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

We would very much welcome a proposal by the British government that such a UN force should be set up and that Royal Navy units should be a key element in that force."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Britain should be influencing its European neighbours to support the action as soon as possible. "Meanwhile, it is appropriate and right that Britain has offered assistance — this reflects both our special interest in the Gulf area and the need to internationalise the US action without delay."

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, said: "It is extremely important that Britain's contribution to the multinational force is seen at

all times to be a defensive contribution to defend Saudi Arabia at the request of King Fahd. "President Mubarak's talk of massive retaliation against Iraq is premature and likely to damage the Security Council consensus on an embargo on all trade with Iraq and Kuwait."

The announcement by Mr King of the dispatch of a British force to the Gulf as part of a multi-national force to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states will involve it in greater military and diplomatic risks than at any time since the Falklands war.

Although it took part in mine-sweeping work in the Gulf during the 1980-8 Iran-Iraq war, its profile was lower and only the small Armilla Patrol was at risk of being attacked.

An Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia or the other states could involve British servicemen in a direct combat role. While President Bush and British ministers emphasised yesterday that the force would have a purely defensive role, that did not mean that any fighting would be left entirely to Saudi forces.

Washington and London hope that there will be at least some involvement by Egyptian and Moroccan forces to counter that argument. They

also believe that some Arab leaders will be relieved by the moves, even if they do not say so.

Western diplomats pointed out that similar objections were raised when the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and others sent vessels to the Gulf to keep it open to shipping during the Iran-Iraq war. The complaints subsided when it became clear that these forces were playing a useful role.

Margaret Thatcher had a telephone conversation with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before the decision was announced. Britain sent a message to the Soviet Union soon afterwards explaining its decision, clearly hoping that Moscow would not be unsympathetic.

Mr Hurd said he was "very glad and slightly surprised" that Moscow had voted in favour of the UN Security Council resolution calling for economic sanctions. "It amounts to quite a turnaround in Soviet policy and I pay tribute to their courage," he said. "I don't know how much further they will want to

go at this stage, but certainly we intend to keep them very closely informed."

The government has been disappointed by the unwillingness of King Husain of Jordan to condemn the invasion of Kuwait, but at the same time recognises that he is in a difficult position. He has had meetings with Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street more regularly than any other Middle East leader over the past decade.

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British bases on Cyprus to play key role

From MICHAEL THEODOLOU IN NICOSIA

MILITARY preparations being made by the West have highlighted the strategic importance of Britain of its two large sovereign bases in Cyprus, tucked away under Nato's southern flank at the gateway to the Middle East.

The government is expected to decide the next 48 hours what types of aircraft and which squadrons to send to the Gulf. If troops are sent their role will be to protect aircraft and airfields. By the time the Royal Naval Force has assembled in the Gulf the government expects to have decided whether, together with the US, to undertake a naval blockade immediately. The initial signs are that the Security Council resolution will prove almost completely effective in stopping Iraq's oil exports without the need for military enforcement.

If a blockade is started its role will be primarily to prevent Iraq importing food.

The sprawling air base at Akrotiri, near Limassol on the southern coast, hosts regular training detachments of Phantom fighters, ground-attack Jaguars and Nimrod sea surveillance planes. The Tornado jets in Cyprus yesterday were on such a routine mission.

The combined British headquarters is at nearby Episcopi, where the Army keeps a battalion. A second is posted at Dhekelia, 60 miles to the east, making a total of more than 4,000 troops, 1,500 with the RAF, the rest soldiers. Since the weekend, an undisclosed number on leave were recalled to Cyprus.

American U2 spy planes have permission to make daily flights from Akrotiri to monitor defence lines in the Golan Heights and Sinai, and they can also glean invaluable intelligence about movements in the Gulf.

Reports from Turkey that

Britain protests at Iraqi soldier's rape of hostess

By MICHAEL HORNSHILL

THE rape of a British Airways air hostess by an Iraqi soldier in Kuwait shortly after the invasion led to a formal protest yesterday by the Foreign Office to the Iraqi embassy in London.

The air hostess had been taken into Kuwait city last Friday with passengers and crew from BA flight 149, which was trapped on the tarmac after it stopped to refuel en route to Kuala Lumpur. The Pakistani air hostess was attacked on a bus as passengers and crew were being transferred from one hotel in the city to another.

The Foreign Office investigated the report before lodging a protest with the Iraqi authorities in Baghdad as well as with the Iraqi embassy in London.

The jumbo jet is still on the ground at Kuwait. British Airways confirmed that 295 passengers were safe and well in hotels in Kuwait, as well as with the Iraqi embassy.

Another 36 passengers have been taken to Baghdad, though they, too, are said to be well cared for. A further 36 passengers remain unaccounted for, but these are believed to be Kuwaiti nationals who did not catch the flight.

Mr Alsane said that the Iraqis failed a withdrawal from Kuwait, by stealing Kuwaiti tanks, painting them in Iraqi colours then driving them away. He said: "The soldiers took off their uniforms, put on civilian clothes and drove off in stolen cars."

Most BAe staff in Saudi Arabia are engaged on the Al Yamamah project, under which they work on the maintenance and supply of a range of aircraft as well as training Saudi personnel.

The company has had a long relationship with Saudi Arabia since the 1960s, when it supplied Lightning aircraft. The present £5 billion contract

is for 72 Tornados, most of which have been supplied.

The company said that the chartered aircraft would be used to evacuate dependants based in the Eastern Province, the area closest to the Gulf and the border with Iraq, who had chosen to return.

It said: "The company is allowing wives and dependants from other locations where British Aerospace has bases to leave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia if they wish, either by chartered aircraft or by scheduled flight at the company's expense."

It is expected that the first of the families will return to Britain in the next few days.

"When I returned to Baghdad, I spent some time with friends and then simply took a cab and asked to be driven to the border. It was as simple as that," he said.

"On my arrival at the Iraqi border post of Ruiyah, a surprised Iraqi civilian told me: 'How did you get here? Foreigners are not allowed to leave.' But the Iraqi border officials gave me no trouble. They stamped my passport and waved me on. It was all very nice, actually, I quite enjoyed it, no hassle whatever."

Mr Hume said it was only after he arrived in Amman that he realized there was an international crisis. "Everything was perfectly normal in Baghdad, no excitement, no fear or anything, although there was a lot of military presence," he said.

"This is what I can't understand. They are just normal people."

Nerve-centre hunts for clues about air passengers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AT 7am yesterday the chief executive of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall, walked into a large, windowless basement in a Heathrow office block. Over the last six days the room has become the nerve-centre of a complex international operation to discover the whereabouts and condition of more than 400 passengers and crew who were caught up in the Kuwait invasion.

Within hours of communications being cut with flight BA149 from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, via Kuwait and Madras, dozens of staff were drafted in to man the Operations Control Intelligence Centre. The centre is run by Ron Lindsay, manager of operations contingency and control, whose constant wish is that he never has to work "for real".

Since the Iraqi invasion, however he and Tim Phillips, the deputy marketing director, and Dick Wyatt, the general operations manager, have been working 24 hours a day in

the airport. The staff working at the operations control centre still do not know why neither the Foreign Office nor any other intelligence agency told them that trouble was brewing at the destination airport.

At 01.13 GMT Captain Brumate brought the aircraft to a halt in the sweltering heat of Kuwait and the passengers disembarked for what was intended to be an hour's stopover before setting off for Madras.

At 02.05 the passengers, who were still unaware of the momentous events which were taking place just a few miles to the north, began boarding the aircraft ready for take-off. Captain Peter Clark, who replaced Captain Brumate, his co-pilot, flight engineer and cabin crew of 14, began making the preliminary checks ready for departure. Suddenly, the captain saw what he assumed to be a strafing raid by fighter bombers over the runway right in front of his aircraft.

The staff at the operations intelligence unit in London now believe that this was a shaff thrown out by the jets to ward off any defending

missiles, but the effect was the same — an immediate order to abandon the planned take-off and to take the passengers back into the terminal. The airport was closed at 02.15 GMT and no direct information has been received about the aircraft or crew since.

The intelligence unit has now established, through painstaking detective work, that they were taken to three hotels in Kuwait where they joined 60 other British Airways crew who were either planning to take British Airways aircraft on from Kuwait or to return to London.

After a confusing 24 hours, the BA crew decided the time had come to take some kind of action to look after their passengers. A cricket match was arranged and the tennis courts were cleared for an impromptu game of football, held under the noses of the Iraqi soldiers who were taking people by bus from one hotel to another, and, as is now known, raping one of the crew members.

Rumours had begun circulating by the weekend that all the pas-

sengers and crew had been taken to Baghdad, but this is now known to be untrue.

Ninety people, mainly Australians and British, were told to pack their bags and get onto buses which then headed out across the desert to the Iraqi capital. Of these, 36 were from the British Airways jet.

As the intelligence centre gleaned information, details were passed through a connecting door to the Emergency Procedures Information Centre. Here volunteers manned a giant revolving drum with details of each passenger and handled calls from anxious relatives, telling them whatever they knew and trying to assure them that all was as well as possible under the circumstances.

The intelligence centre was last used when the bolts blew out of the BAC 1-11 window in June and the pilot was sucked onto the nose cone. It was also used by British Midland for the MI1 disaster and by Pan-Am after the Lockerbie bombing. British Airways is hoping that it does not have to be put into operation again for a very long time.

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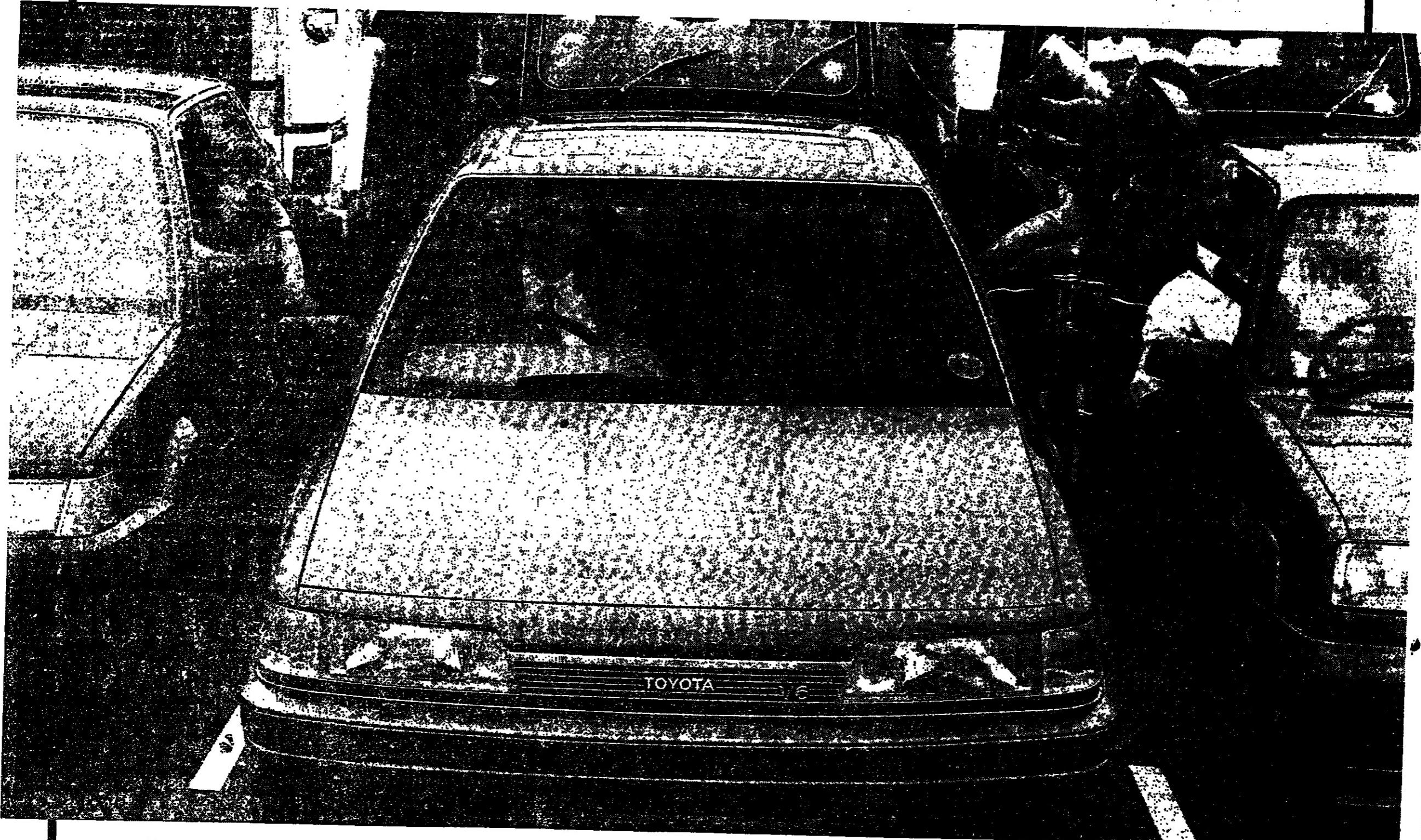
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dirt and pollen stay where they belong, outside.

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The 2.5 litre Camry V6 GXi in the picture cost its driver just £18,644, whilst £16,885 would have put him behind the wheel of the luxurious two-litre Camry GLi Executive Estate.

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get hot and bothered. Your Toyota dealer will be happy to fit air-conditioning as an optional extra to the £13,435 two-litre GLi saloon and the £14,195 GLi estate.

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Sober British are Europe's low-drinkers as tea stays top choice

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITONS are less likely to drink alcohol regularly than citizens of any other important European nation, according to a survey of European drinking habits which is claimed to be the most comprehensive yet.

Mintel, the market research analysts, found that more than a quarter of the British adult population claimed that they would not drink as much as one alcoholic drink a month, compared with a European average of only one-fifth claiming to be so abstemious. In West Germany the proportion was only 15 per cent.

Britons' national beverage remains tea of which they drink 232 litres each a year, or about three cups every day. The people of the other six European nations included in the survey drank coffee in greatest volume.

Even Britons drank almost as much coffee (110 litres a head per year, about 1½ cups daily) as beer

(113 litres). In common with the Spanish and Dutch, Britons' second most consumed drink was milk. The annual 118 litres per head was overtaken by only the 130 litres of the Dutch.

Mintel says that the European drinks market is worth £25 billion, spent on 204 billion litres. Consumption has increased in all countries over the past five years, with 1989 sales 15 per cent up by volume on those in 1984.

Average daily consumption per person rose from 1.67 litres in 1984 to 1.89 litres in 1989. Mintel believes that increase was due to replacement of tap water with other drinks, a move away from alcohol and toward long drinks, and an increased amount of drinking at home.

It is now the Spanish and Italians who place most faith in their tap water, drinking larger amounts to keep their consumption of other drinks comparatively low. The British distrust their tap water more than anyone but the health-

conscious West Germans, though drinking only 3.4 litres of mineral water each a year, much less than a twentieth of the average consumption in Belgium or West Germany. Soft drinks recorded the greatest growth in all the countries in the survey, up almost a third on average between 1984 and 1989. The increase ranged from 28 per cent in Britain to 36 per cent in Spain.

This success is attributed to health considerations and the use of soft drinks as a replacement for, or mixer with, alcohol. Young people consume soft drinks most and Mintel believes there is room for growth in the market. Current per capita consumption of all soft drinks in Europe is 133 litres a year, equivalent to a third of a litre per head each day.

Hot beverages, predominantly consumed by those in middle age, can expect declining sales in future, Mintel thinks. The volume of consumption increased by an eighth between 1984 and

1989 but the market appears to be saturated. Volume sales of alcoholic drinks declined in Belgium, France and West Germany between 1984 and 1989 and across Europe the increase in consumption was only six per cent. The nations with high per capita consumption of beer, West Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom, showed sales declining or rising by the smallest margins. In countries with high wine consumption beer-drinking was gaining, except in Italy.

Whisky overtook brandy as the spirit consumed in greatest volume, with nearly 300 million litres sold in 1989. Britain remains the largest market but demand is static.

West Germany and Spain account for more than two thirds of the European sales of brandy. Vodka still sells only 53 million litres overall but is growing fast, while gin is thought to suffer from a traditional image.

Attitudes to low and non-alcoholic alternatives

to wine and beer differed between north and south. The Italians and Spanish were most likely to cite health as a reason for drinking them, while driving was more important among the Dutch, Belgians and British.

Britons were the most reluctant to resort to low or non-alcoholic wines and beers. Two fifths of British respondents in a Mintel poll said they would not try them while in Spain and Italy only 3 per cent said they would be unwilling.

Increased sales of low and non-alcoholic beers were credited at the International Hop Growers' Congress in Hereford yesterday with reviving demand for British hops. Peter Davies, a Herefordshire hop farmer, said it took more hops to make the low-alcohol brews and British growers were exporting hops to Germany.

The Drinks Market and the European Consumer (24 volumes), Mintel, 18-19 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HE, £6,000

PETER TREVOR



Neil Goodwin in one of the wards which have had to be closed at St Mary's hospital

Waiting lists will soar as hospital is forced to bar all non-urgent patients

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE reduction of waiting times has gone to the top of the health service agenda and managers risk financial penalties if they fail to show reductions within 18 months. Yet this week one of London's top teaching hospitals stopped all non-urgent admissions for a month, shut 150 beds and cancelled 2,500 operations as part of a package of measures to save £2 million by next March.

The 600-bed St Mary's hospital in Paddington, west London, will close to all but emergency admissions at Christmas and possibly again at the beginning of next year if it is still spending too much money. The result will be soaring lists and longer waits for the 2,500 people needing treatment, lowering staff morale and casting doubt over the hospital's viability under the health service reforms. Neil

Goodwin, the hospital's general manager, is pragmatic about the closures which were forced upon him because of underfunding and pay awards.

"I don't like doing this and it is very unfortunate that patients will have to wait longer for treatment but I have a responsibility to balance the hospital's books at the end of the year and this was the least damaging option," he said.

Three days into the recent closures, the accident and emergency department appears to be bearing the brunt of the reductions. Some patients who would have been admitted for operations in the next four weeks are now appearing instead at the doors of the casualty department.

"If GPs cannot get their patients into hospital for routine operations they are more likely to send their patients to the accident and emergency department," Robin Touquet.

Goodwin stresses that the hospital has been treating more patients every year, with an average 20 per cent increase in the last three years, reaching a peak of 34,000 cases. This month's cutback will reduce the workload back to the 1983/89 level, he says.

"August is generally our busiest month because of the tourist season and we are having to keep patients in accident and emergency for far longer than usual while we try to find beds," Mr Touquet said. "Nursing staff are under great stress as they have to monitor, observe and feed patients on hospital trolleys."

He is also concerned that the department has had to close its observation ward which allows 24 hour monitoring before patients are transferred to other hospital wards or sent home. Now, if there are no beds in the hospital, patients who are able to travel are being transferred to the Middlesex and St Charles hospitals.

Wendy Hickey, senior nurse, says that patients are waiting often in great discomfort on the hard trolleys for over nine hours because the hospital is so short of beds. Mrs Hickey says the accident and emergency department will continue to overspend. "The explanations will come later but the patient must come first."

In common with many consultants in London's teaching hospitals Mr Touquet is worried that under the NHS reforms, districts outside London will stop referring patients to teaching hospitals which have greater overheads than a local district general hospital.

Mr Goodwin says that his main role is to ensure that St Mary's is not the teaching hospital destined for closure which was mentioned in the health department memo leaked to the Labour party yesterday.

Drug task force to be disbanded

A national task force of police and customs investigators set up to combat the spread of crack, the powerful refinement of cocaine, is to be wound up nine months after it began amid evidence that the predicted explosion of crack abuse in Britain has yet to take place (Stewart Tindall writes).

The task force was formed in November last year after a senior American drugs agent from New York warned British police that crack abuse had created millions of addicts within the space of a few years and could easily cross the Atlantic. Ministers and senior officers took the warning seriously and set up the task force.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that analysis of crack seizures by the national drugs intelligence unit showed that the use of the drug was restricted largely to London

Couple cleared

A couple accused of evicting Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, the former Conservative MP for Belper, Derbyshire from a flat were acquitted at the Central Criminal Court. Philip Hodgson and his wife Maria denied evicting Mr Stewart-Smith, a bankrupt who owed them £1,500 in rent, from the flat in Pimlico, London. The ex-MP had complained to Westminster city council.

Canal half open

The Queen reopened the Kennet and Avon canal at a ceremony in Devizes, Wiltshire yesterday but the drought means half of the 87-mile waterway will stay closed until autumn rains lift water levels high enough to allow boats to pass. Volunteers have spent £2 million restoring the canal, which runs from Reading to Bath and has lain derelict for 40 years.

Dog owner fined

A woman spectator at the recent Badminton horse trials was fined £200 with £30 costs by North Avon magistrates yesterday for leaving her dog in her car during the recent hot weather. Rosemary Hill, of Church Road, Abbotts Leigh, Bristol, admitted causing unnecessary distress to the Labrador. The cases of five others were adjourned.

Medals appeal

An appeal has been launched at RAF Coningsby, Lincoln, to raise £20,000 to buy the medals won by Ginger Lacey, the second world war pilot who shot down the Heinkel which bombed Buckingham Palace. Lacey, of Grindale, near Bridlington, shot down 18 German aircraft. He died last year and his medals are to be auctioned next month.

Buyers: The Times overseas Austria Sch 52; Belgium B Frs 25; Canada Cdn 10; France F 10; Cyprus 90 cents; Denmark Dkr 16; Finland Mkr 10;00; France F 10;00; Greece Dr 270; Holland G 280; Italy Repubblica 150; Japan 3,000; Luxembourg 100; Norway Kr 100; Portugal 120; Sweden 120; Switzerland Fr 220; Spain Pts 220; Sweden Skr 140; Switzerland S Frs 380; Tunisia Dri 120; U.S. \$2.50

Training councils' autonomy pleas supported by CBI

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday supported the demands of businessmen and women leading the new training and enterprise councils for more autonomy and protection from threatened budget cuts.

Representatives of the councils told Michael Howard, the employment secretary, last month that they were "hungry for signs of the government's commitment" and questioned whether the desire for a world-class workforce had weakened. They gave a warning of the damage which further budget

cuts would cause and put the case for more control over training funds.

Yesterday the CBI appealed to the government to maintain the momentum established by the TECs in developing locally based training agencies. John Crickland, head of training policy, said: "We think that it is desperately important to make the TECs successful and we have made it clear to ministers that funding levels must be maintained and flexibility enhanced."

Minutes of Mr Howard's meeting with the TEC representatives confirmed his willingness to give the councils more room to manoeuvre. At present, large part of their funds is earmarked for spending on centrally controlled training schemes.

He offered no guarantees on the size of training budgets, which were cut earlier this year and are said to be under further Treasury pressure in the public spending negotiations. The council representatives said new cuts would have a damaging impact disproportionate to the savings made.

John Trotter, who chairs the north-east Wales TEC, said yesterday: "There appears to be real willingness to give us more flexibility to meet local needs. We are anxious not to face substantial cuts in our budgets because that would

Leading article, page 13

Teachers top unions

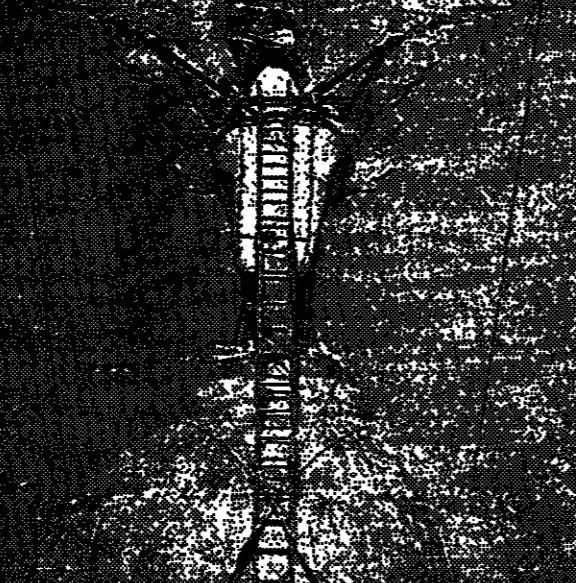
A GREATER proportion of teachers, 69 per cent, belong to unions than any other group of workers in Britain (Tim Jones writes). However, with a membership rate of only 14 per cent, sales people are the most reluctant employees to be organised, according to figures in the latest edition of *Employment Gazette*.

The report said that last

TONY HALL

year two-fifths of employees belonged to unions or staff associations and full-time employees were twice as likely to be members as part-time staff. However, fewer than one in ten self-employed workers and less than one in twenty on government training schemes had joined. Membership was lowest in East Anglia and highest in Northern Ireland.

The report said that last



Waiting in the wings: a steeplejack passing during an examination of one of the two copper liver birds which perch more than 300ft up on the twin towers of the Royal Liver Buildings in Liverpool. The mythical birds with a 12ft wingspan, which are the city's emblem, are checked every few years for structural defects and wear and tear

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE hospital service in London faces major and destabilising cuts next year as a result of changes to the national health service, according to a leaked health department memorandum.

It predicts that health service reform will lead to the piecemeal closure of hospitals in the capital and the shutting of at least one London teaching hospital.

The report, *Managing the Impact of the NHS reforms in London*, was sent anonymously to Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, who said yesterday that it showed that the managers expected to make the reforms work were "terrified by their impact".

Mr Cook was speaking as Labour launched a campaign to consult patients, hospital staff and consultants about the proposal to allow applications from hospitals to become self

governing trusts. The document expresses concern at effects of health service changes, but says that they will increase choice and service quality in the long term. Mr Cook said: "The memorandum shows managers candidly admitting that the effect of the reforms will be to destabilise hospitals in London and accelerate the tendency to piecemeal closures."

Virginia Bottomley, minister for health, did not deny the authenticity of the leaked document. She said that the aim of the health department's work with the Thames health regions was to ensure a more effective service for London and surrounding counties based on changing patterns of service which had taken place over a number of years.

Mr Cook was speaking as Labour launched a campaign to consult patients, hospital staff and consultants about the proposal to allow applications from hospitals to become self

governing trusts. The document expresses concern at effects of health service changes, but says that they will increase choice and service quality in the long term. Mr Cook said: "The memorandum shows managers candidly admitting that the effect of the reforms will be to destabilise hospitals in London and accelerate the tendency to piecemeal closures."

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Takeover of Correspondent fails

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECTS for the beleaguered *Sunday Correspondent* looked more bleak last night after *The Independent* said that it had withdrawn from discussions to buy its title and goodwill.

Its decision comes after three weeks of uncertainty, during which the *Correspondent's* largest shareholder, the Chicago Tribune newspaper group, negotiated transferring its investment to *The Independent*, in a deal which would have involved the takeover and subsequent closure of the *Correspondent*, the loss-making *Independent On Sunday*'s main rival.

"There is certainly no deal between the Chicago Tribune and *The Independent*, but relations remain cordial," Andreas

Whittam Smith, editor and founder of *The Independent*, said. He could not rule out a future deal with the Chicago Tribune. "This particular episode has come to an end." The Chicago Tribune had wanted *The Independent* to suspend its articles of association, which prevent any shareholder from owning more than 15 per cent, so that it could take about 30 per cent.

It was still unclear whether the Chicago Tribune would help rescue the *Correspondent* with a fresh injection of finance. Neither it nor *Correspondent* editors would comment last night as a board meeting was convened. The *Guardian*, which owns 16.6 per cent of the *Correspondent*, has refused to put up any more

money. More than a week ago, it had promised about £3 million.

Musical called off after race ruling

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Broadway run of *Miss Saigon*, the musical which has taken a record £13 million in advance box office sales prior to its March opening is off after American Equity refused to allow Jonathan Pryce to repeat his award-winning West End role because he is Eurasian.

Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, has decided to withdraw the show rather than recast. "After a long and emotional debate, the council has decided it cannot appear to condone the casting of a Caucasian actor in the role of a Eurasian," Alan Eisenberg, executive secretary of American Equity, said. "The casting is extraordinary and absurd," Mr Pryce said. "It means that only black actors can play Asian community." Mr Mackintosh said that suggestions by American Equity that he should take the matter to arbitration were cowardly. He said: "The inaccurate and inflammatory statements which equity made concerning *Miss Saigon* have served only to create a poisonous atmosphere in which creativity and artistic freedom cannot function or survive. Arbitration cannot clear this atmosphere."

Mr Pryce said that he wholeheartedly supported Mr Mackintosh. He added that advertisements would be appearing in the American press today cancelling the show. "Equity's decision is extraordinary and absurd," Mr Pryce said. "It means that only black actors can play black roles, only Jewish actors can

play Jewish roles and so forth. I'm Welsh and I've never played a Welshman." Mr Pryce, winner of a Tony Award for a previous Broadway appearance, said that he might never appear there again because of the equity decision.

American Equity's decision has also put it at odds with its British counterpart. "What we find particularly offensive is that this new rule can't apply to our own actors so that Cameron could have hired a white Caucasian American actor for the part and there would have been no complaint," Peter Plouviez, general secretary of British Equity, said. "Reading between the lines, American actors are worried at the success of British musicals over there and British actors in them."

Satanic sex claims 'must be supported by evidence'

By LIN JENKINS

PEOPLE who claim to have been subjected to ritual abuse by members of satanic sex rings have a moral duty to give details to the police, a police specialist in child abuse said yesterday.

Reports of babies being induced and eaten by members of satanic circles and of systematic sexual abuse of children could not be substantiated if witnesses refused to give evidence to the police, Det Chief Insp Stuart Baker, of Scotland Yard's obscene publications branch, said.

He told the International Conference on Incest and Related Matters at Harrow, northwest London, that during his many years in the service he had never come across any evidence of such activities or knew of anyone else who had.

Det Insp Sylvia Aston, the West Midlands police force's adviser on child abuse and

Paedophiles deliberately aimed at single parents as a means of getting to children, Mr Baker said. Most abusers were intelligent and financially secure men who had seduced their victim in very much the same way as a heterosexual man would seduce a girl he met at a disco.

The public perception that child pornography was the product of groups of strangers grabbing children off the streets and forcing them to make videos was a myth, he said.

"In most cases the abuser will have taken steps to get to know the family and be in a position of trust. Paedophiles are highly motivated and very good at singling out children who lack affection and love," he said. Single parents were particularly vulnerable and it could be many years before a woman discovered that her close friend, with whom she had no sexual relationship, was abusing her children.

Typically, a paedophile befriended a child and showed pornographic material in order to convince the child that explicit sex was acceptable. The relationship progressed to sexual activity and taking photographs of the child.

All paedophiles kept large collections of child pornography, Mr Baker said. This often included seemingly innocent photographs of children available in the high street and video clips from television programmes. There was no evidence to suggest that the production of child pornography was a large commercial industry.

"Most child pornography is made at home by the men who require it for their needs. Paedophiles operate in tight knit groups and make contact through low life magazines and swap material. Material sold on the market was usually more than ten years old so the children involved could not be identified, he added.

Rarest bird is hunted by trappers

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TRAPPERS are trying to catch the world's rarest bird, the last remaining Spix's Macaw in the wild, for the black market.

A party of British and Brazilian scientists working in the remote northeast of Bahia state in Brazil have discovered a single Spix's Macaw, a long-tailed blue parrot, alive near the spot where the species was discovered 170 years ago.

The party has reported that the parrot has paired with a single Blue-Winged Macaw, a quite different bird, but that illegal attempts are being made to trap it.

About 15 Spix's Macaws are in bird collections. A single bird sells for up to £30,000 on the black market.

Its preference for a unique type of woodland is thought to have accounted for its original rarity. But there is no doubt that it has been almost wiped out in the wild as a result of the attentions of trappers.

The International Council for Bird Preservation called yesterday for the release into the forest of at least one of the birds in captivity and for the setting up of a species protection centre in north Brazil.

Dr Christoph Imbolden, the council's director-general, said: "It is tragic that today, with so much worldwide conservation awareness, it is possible for a unique species like the Spix's Macaw to disappear from right under our noses as a result of illegal actions carried out by well-organised dealers." He said that a number of other birds might soon become extinct for the same reason.

Tunnel acid alert

An alert was issued to trace a lorry leaking hydrochloric acid after five Dartford Tunnel workers collapsed and were taken to hospital yesterday.

The men had inhaled fumes of the acid, which split on to the M25 as the lorry stopped at a tunnel toll booth in Kent. The workers were given oxygen before being taken to West Hill Hospital in Dartford. The tunnel was closed for 20 minutes as firemen, wearing protective clothing, cleared the remaining acid on the road.

Gypsy protest

The Commission for Racial Equality has started legal action against Anthony Wray, headmaster of Ayston High School, Hereford, who objected to plans for a gypsy camp. Mr Wray said he was "horror struck" at the prospect of an influx of gypsies to his school.

Racing charity

Bob Champion, the former jockey and a cancer sufferer, helped to launch RaceAid yesterday to raise money for cancer research over the next 12 months. Top trainers and jockeys have pledged to give 1 per cent of their race earnings to the charity.

Slimming award

Julie Nimmo, aged 26, has won Slimming magazine's Slimmer of the Year award after reducing her weight from 19 to 9 stone. The nurse, from Ramsgate, Kent, has won £1,000 and a holiday in Malta.

Peace losses

GEC Avionics in Rochester, Kent, is making 420 engineering staff redundant because of improved East-West relations after the developments in eastern Europe.

Arson death

Bill Webster, aged 61, died in his house in East Grinstead, West Sussex, 18 hours after his house in Yalding, Kent, was twice attacked by arsonists with fire-bombs.

Driving ban

Mike Hallett, the snooker player, was banned from driving for six months by magistrates in Grimsby, Humberside, after he was stopped for speeding twice in a fortnight. Hallett, who has been stopped five times in three years, was fined £100.

No advertising

Lothian Regional Council has decided to ban all tobacco advertising on its land. The decision, which will mean the loss of £7,000 in advertising revenue, was taken after lobbying by Parents Against Tobacco.

Rail go-ahead

The government has given the go-ahead for an £11 million railway line which will provide a passenger service for Mansfield, Ashfield, Nottingham and Worksop. The line could be finished by 1994.

Surprise haul

Police officers who searched the Lawns lake in Swindon, Wiltshire, after fears that children had been drowned, found £2,000 in jewellery and a rusty shotgun. They found no bodies.

Second-best

Police in Lincolnshire are planning to buy eight second-hand cars for surveillance work to help trim the force's budget by the £1.3 million ordered by the Home Office. The force has been given £350,000 to pay for 262 cars.

ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Weather forecaster bets to back his expertise

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A HOT August, a record drought and a white Christmas were yesterday confidently predicted by a man who believes that he has solved one of science's knottiest problems: long-range weather forecasting.

His claims cannot easily be disregarded. In the past two years Piers Corbyn, a lecturer in astrophysics at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, has won more than £5,000 from the bookmakers William Hill by backing his forecasts, at track record of successful prediction.

Last December, in a forecast published by *The Times* on Boxing Day, he predicted January's storms. He was also right about the frosts in April, the wet and cool June and early July, and the record-breaking August. He now says that the pattern of hot, settled weather so far this month will continue, with the chance of last week's top temperature of 99F being reached again.

Mr Corbyn's predictions have proved so accurate that he is selling them to businesses through a company formed with colleagues. The firm's clients receive forecasts for up to seven months ahead which are used to plan buying policies, distribution plans and advertising campaigns.

Mr Corbyn's method is based on a study of the patterns of the sun's activity, which he believes determine the weather over the medium term in a predictable way. He compares present solar activity with similar activity in the past, and when he finds a match, assumes that the weather will evolve in the same way as it did the last time. The method depends on a long run of records of weather and solar activity, which existed in Britain to keep us going through these difficult times. In the rest of Yorkshire 4.5 million people are banned from using hosepipes from 6pm today. Stock have continued to dwindle and Yorkshire Water has extended emergency drought measures in Hull, Merton, Harrogate, Sheffield and Barnsley to cover the whole county.

The company said: "It is regrettable but necessary." Householders who ignore the ban face a fine of up to £400.

York an oasis of green as hose ban extended

AS YORKSHIRE Water yesterday announced a hosepipe ban in the whole of the region, one city's gardeners will be able to carry on watering regardless.

York Waterworks, a private company which serves 175,000 people in and around the city, said it had no need for a ban.

Roger Smith, chief engineer at the 300-year-old company, said: "We draw all our water supplies from the River Ouse and there's more than enough

there to keep us going through these difficult times." In the rest of Yorkshire 4.5 million people are banned from using hosepipes from 6pm today. Stock have continued to dwindle and Yorkshire Water has extended emergency drought measures in Hull, Merton, Harrogate, Sheffield and Barnsley to cover the whole county.

The company said: "It is regrettable but necessary." Householders who ignore the ban face a fine of up to £400.

Two for the road: Geoff and June Tiley driving their 1912 NAG, star of the film *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, and one of 50 cars, including a Batmobile, taking part in the British Film Rally from Cardiff to Edinburgh

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NOBODY DOES D.I.Y. BETTER



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£1m mystery left by lady who almost vanished

By JOHN SHAW

A WEALTHY widow who destroyed her past before she died has left behind an intriguing mystery and a £1 million windfall for the Treasury.

Dorothea Allen and her industrialist husband once enjoyed a champagne life-style with a country house in Warwickshire, flats in Park Lane and Park Avenue, and a 12-acre beachfront estate in Barbados. Latterly, however, she withdrew from social life and became a virtual recluse, destroying letters, family papers, and even mutilating her passport.

Mrs Allen died aged 89 in January. She did not leave a will and officials have been unable to trace any next of kin. Her home, a 300-year-old manor house in the hamlet of Sutton-under-Brailes, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, is on the market and its contents will be sold by Sotheby's on September 4.

They include period furnishings and Georgian and French furniture. Still parked in the double garage are a 1964 Daimler 2.5-litre V8 saloon (estimate £18,000-£25,000) and a black 1972 Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible (estimate £30,000-£40,000).

Jackson Stops & Staff in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, are offering the house at about £700,000... and Sotheby's office in Chester estimates that the contents will make £250,000. The money will go to the Treasury,

John Lee, an official in the Treasury Solicitor's department, said yesterday: "We have been looking for an heir for months, but without success. The main difficulty has been that we have been unable to find her correct name and place of birth. We know her maiden name was Farquharson and her date of birth was January 21, 1901. But she tore off that part of her passport giving her place of birth."

Mrs Allen is believed to have been educated at an Ursuline convent in Herk Ville in Belgium, and is thought to have been married in New Haven, Connecticut. Enquiries in both places have been unsuccessful, Mr Lee said.

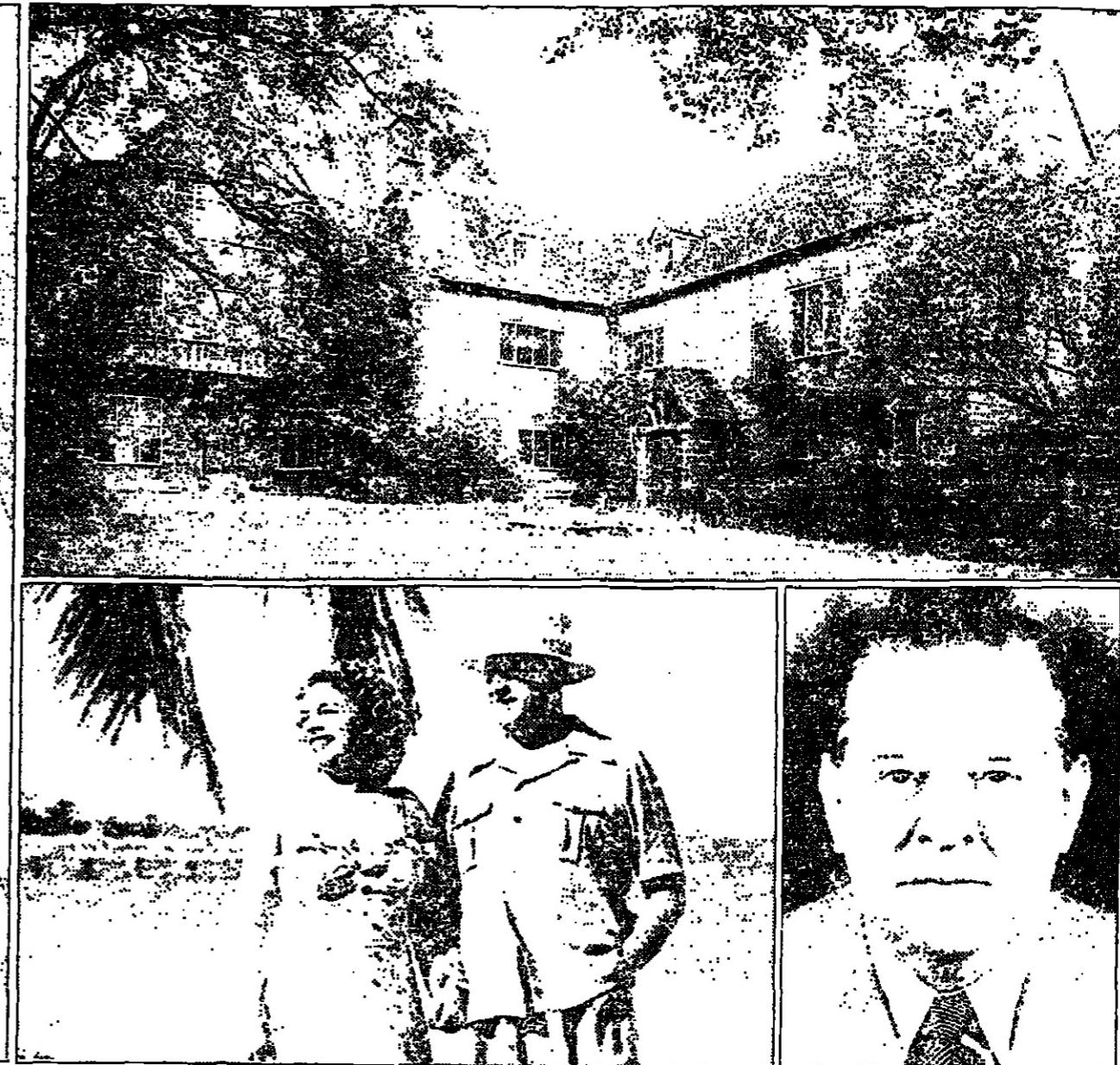
Claims could still be made against the estate, but they must be from blood relatives, he said. A valid claimant could receive money with interest for up to 12 years after Mrs Allen's death.

Her husband, Eric, came from Sheffield, was awarded the OBE for services to industry in 1957, and died in 1965. Mrs Allen was looked after by her chauffeur, Frank Steele, and his wife, who scattered Mr and Mrs Allen's ashes under a favourite chestnut tree in the grounds of the house.

Mr Steele said: "She didn't go out much in the last few years. When she died, we couldn't find much of value about her past; no medical



Snapshots from a life of luxury: Dorothea Allen, left, on her wedding day; her sumptuous home at Sutton-under-Brailes, built on the profits of a corsetry company; below left, Eric Allen, who died in 1965. No claimants to assets valued at about £1 million have come forward



Paris nightclub in the Thirties rarely left the house.

Bronwen Hanks, 80, a friend and confidante, said: "She was friendly but dignified, a very good business woman with a good eye to style. I knew her for over 40 years, yet knew nothing about her early life. It was something she never talked about."

certificates, dental records, or anything like that. I don't know why she didn't leave a will, unless she came from a background she didn't want anybody to know anything about."

Mrs Allen had wardrobes full of clothes and 400 to 500 pairs of shoes from shops in Bond Street, Fifth Avenue, and Paris. The money for her lifestyle and frequent first-class suites on the Queen Mary to New York came from a company selling women's corsets. She and her husband founded Spencers Corsets in Banbury in 1927 and the firm later went into partnership with an American firm.

The manor house was

designed and manufactured a body belt for airmen to relieve the effects of G-forces when flying at high speed. The couple also equipped their village with an ambulance and fire-fighting apparatus.

Mrs Allen organised a fund to buy a Spitfire, contributing much of the money herself, and the manor became home to eight

evacuees she treated as her own children.

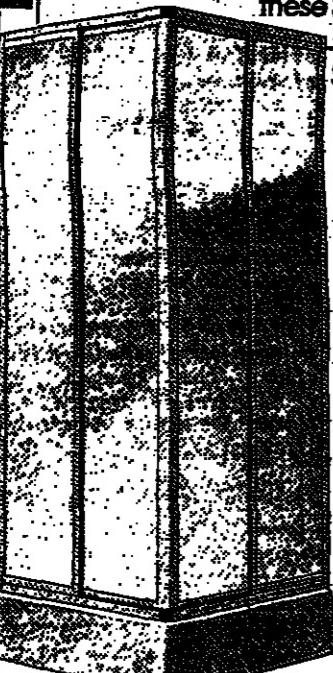
Mrs Allen's life began to change four years after her husband died. She sold their yacht and the estate in Barbados. About ten years ago she was slightly concussed in a road accident and afterwards the woman who once briefly danced with Fred Astaire in a

Paris nightclub in the Thirties rarely left the house.

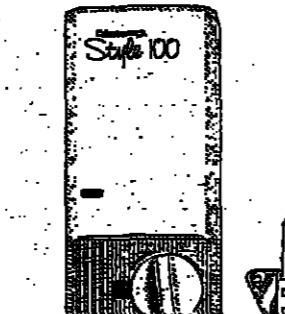
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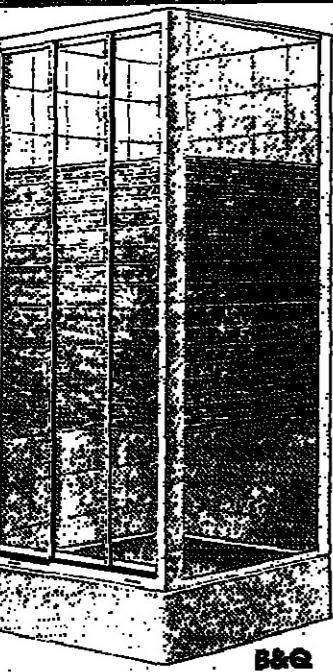
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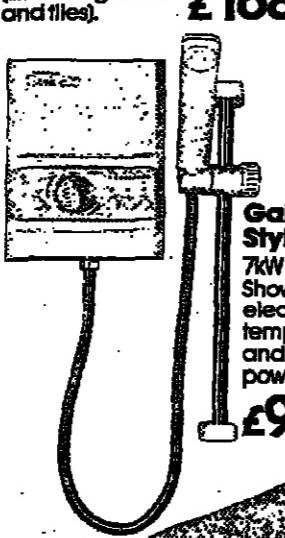
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Increase in voters may mean new seats

THE number of registered voters in the United Kingdom rose by 49,463 in the past year to 43,663,424, making the creation of new parliamentary constituencies likely before the end of the century (Sheila Gunn writes).

The biggest rise has been in voters living in suburban and country areas of southern England and Wales and a 10,000 increase in the Northern Ireland electorate because of a change in the local government franchise law.

The Boundary Commission has announced the break-up of Milton Keynes into two parliamentary constituencies before the next general election. The commission will start a review of the United Kingdom next February, which is expected to recommend the creation of new seats and changes in boundaries of some of the 650 parliamentary constituencies because of population shifts.

A report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys published yesterday indicates that the Conservatives are likely to benefit most from the changes as the population shifts away from traditional Labour strongholds in the big cities.

In addition a change in the law from next April will extend the right to vote to overseas electors who are predicted to be mainly pro-Tory.

The number of electors on the 1989 and 1990 registers rose in England by 22,000; in Wales by 13,000; and in Scotland by 4,000. The report attributes some of the increase to the population growth.

After Milton Keynes, the largest constituency in the United Kingdom is the marginal Conservative seat of the Isle of Wight, with 101,859 electors. The Tory strongholds of East Berkshire, East Hampshire, Huntingdon, Eastleigh and Swindon and the marginal Labour seat of The Wrekin have more than 90,000 voters.

At the other end of the scale is the Western Isles, with just 23,084 electors, followed by other constituencies in remote areas of Scotland and Wales with electorates of about 30,000 each.

Electoral Statistics 1990 (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Stationery Office, £5)

Relax planning controls for farmers, peers say

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS should be paid to manage their land in environmentally desirable ways, and planning controls should be relaxed to allow more non-agricultural economic activity in the countryside, the House of Lords select committee on the European Communities recommends.

The committee also urges the government to provide more funds and help for low-cost rural housing and says it is worried about the impact of the uniform business rate on small rural businesses, particularly village shops and

post offices, many of which might be forced to close. Most such businesses are only marginally profitable, the committee says. Most have living quarters attached and will have to pay higher business rates on top of the poll tax. The government should consider relating rates to the level of profitability as in the case of public houses and petrol stations.

The committee's report is a response to a paper issued in 1988 by the European Commission on "the future of rural society". The paper called for policies to mitigate the impact

on marginal farming communities of cuts in price support under the common agricultural policy (CAP) and to stem the exodus of population to the cities.

While recognising that the CAP has social as well as economic objectives, the Lords report believes the emphasis placed by Brussels on the survival of the small family farm is misplaced.

"The committee do not regard the concept of a 'family farm' as one which is useful for policy purposes since it can mean more or less anything one wants it to mean. Nor is it clear what benefits the 'family farm' confers on society," the report says.

The legitimate social aim of minimising hardship must not become a reason for inhibiting the development of more efficient agriculture, the peers say, and reductions in farm price support must not be undermined by "alternative agricultural subsidies of ever-increasing complexity and economic dubiousness".

For similar reasons, the committee believes that the European Commission and the government are misguided in trying to encourage farmers to diversify by providing farm-based tourist amenities and supplying limited "niche markets" for specialist food products. Diversification grants should be "switched to the promotion of other forms of employment and activity which will enable farmers, farmworkers and members of their families to continue to live in rural areas".

Farmers throughout the country should be made eligible for the grants now available only to those within environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), the committee says. There are 19 ESAs covering about 3.5 per cent of the countryside. Farmers in them are paid to preserve or restore hedgerows and dry-stone walls, to reduce stock density and to use less pesticide and fertilisers.

The committee urges the government and Brussels to re-think the present system of subsidies for hill farmers. Hill farmers, it suggests, should be provided for in a wider system of ESAs.

Customs and Excise said that about £18 million of the unpaid default surcharges involved winding-up and insolvency cases, missing traders or court actions and £7 million was owing on debts of less than £1,000. A further £9 million was only slightly overdue and traders owing the remaining £29 million were being pressed to pay under the department's debt enforcement programme.

The committee said: "We note the department's continuing success in reducing the level of VAT arrears, but we are concerned about the increase in the level of outstanding default surcharges." It criticised the shortage of VAT inspectors, especially in the London headquarters. Estimates of the amount of VAT unpaid through staff shortages and inexperience varied from between £60 million and £142 million. The department told the committee that the London area needed 363 more inspectors.

The committee repeated a recommendation for exemption from duty or tax made in special cases to be put on a legal statutory footing. The committee also said that no money confiscated from drug traffickers has been handed to anti-drug units. The law was changed to allow the assets to be seized after an earlier committee recommendation.

Customs and Excise told MPs that the Treasury wanted to use the funds for special one-off projects such as financing specialist units in other countries involved on the front line in the fight against drugs.

The Future of Rural Society (House of Lords select committee on the European Communities; £10.25)

Smart post box could have stamps licked

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT
THE 50-year supremacy of the self-adhesive postage stamp might be numbered.

An engineering student has developed a "smart" pillar box which franks and sorts letters automatically without the need for stamps. Called Autopost, it was invented by Nic Bailey, aged 24, who has just completed a course in engineering product design.

Inspiration came during a year's stay in Australia, where stamps were hard to find. Mr Bailey's solution was an automated pillar box about the size of bank cash-dispensers which would use the latest developments in "smart card" technology.

Paying for a letter at an Autopost pillar box would be like using a phone card at a telephone box, Mr Bailey said. Customers would be able to buy postal cards of varying values from post offices and other outlets which, when inserted into the pillar box, would be debited according to the class of mail required.

Mr Bailey's prototype pillar box carries sensors which feed letters through the franking system and into one of several internal trays. The advantage for the Royal Mail is that letters can be sorted automatically.

The Post Office said that Autopost certainly sounded interesting. However, with 100,000 pillar boxes in Britain, it was unlikely that automated boxes, which would need power supply and maintenance, could be cost effective in remote areas.

Four stamps celebrating the centenary of the British Astronomical Society were launched yesterday by Patrick Moore, the astronomer. The commemorative issues, designed by Jeff Fischer, were unveiled at the Armagh Observatory as part of celebrations marking 300 years of star watching in Northern Ireland. They will go on sale on October 16.

Stonehenge and astral navigation are featured on the 37p stamp, and Greenwich old observatory on the 31p. The 26p stamp shows how the moon governs the Earth's tides, and the 22p stamp depicts the Armagh Observatory and Jodrell Bank radio telescope in Cheshire.

Ferries prepare for squalls over Sunday sailings

By KERRY GILL

ONE of the last bastions of Sabbatharian observance in Britain could be challenged later this month when a government-owned ferry company decides whether to run Sunday sailings from Ullapool, northwest Scotland, to Stornoway, the largest town in the Western Isles.

Opposition to the Sunday service, almost certain to be approved by the ferry operators Caledonian MacBrayne, will be fierce. Generations of Islanders have observed the Lord's day, particularly on the Protestant islands of Lewis and Harris where Presbyterianism influences much of

everyday life. A meeting in Stornoway this week was attended by church ministers, councillors, tradesmen and hoteliers. A fighting group will be formed next week.

The Rev Jack MacLeod, the Free Church of Scotland minister at Point, on the Eye Peninsula, west of Stornoway, said: "There will be widespread opposition, but we are not so exclusive a community that there is not an irreligious element." Mr MacLeod said that islanders would fight Sunday sailings by all legal means but, if these were exhausted, Caledonian MacBrayne could expect sanctions from locals. Last year the company successfully introduced a

sunday service from Lochmaddy, North Uist, to Uig, on Skye, in spite of vigorous protests and a council ban on the use of its vehicle ramp. Cars and vans had to be loaded through a side entrance.

The uproar that followed the ferry company's proposal to include Tarbert, Harris, on the Sunday service led to local fishermen threatening to blockade the port. The company backed down. Mr MacLeod said yesterday that he hoped that fishermen in Stornoway would be prepared to stage a similar blockade if all other means failed.

Colin Paterson, the ferry company's managing director, said: "We are taking a decision before the end of this month. It will be a genuinely commercial decision. The vessel is already under pressure from traffic during the summer." If approved, Sunday sailings on the three-and-a-half-hour crossing would run from April until September.

The Rev John MacLeod, the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland minister in Stornoway, said: "My opposition to ferries coming in on the Lord's day is that it is in breach of the fourth commandment. It is a religious matter for me. There is an atmosphere here that you don't find anywhere else in Britain. We measure that and we don't want to lose it."

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

Murderer of 'Stompie' is sentenced to death

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

JERRY Richardson, coach of the "Mandela United Football Club", Winnie Mandela's gang of bodyguards, was sentenced to death yesterday for murdering a black child activist, "Stompie" Mokheti Seipei, aged 14.

Prosecution of Mrs Mandela, wife of the deputy president of the African National Congress, may follow.

According to Mr Justice Brian O'Donovan, who sentenced Richardson in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg, there is evidence that Mrs Mandela was present "for part of the time" when Stompie and three other youths were assaulted at her Soweto home. Stompie's mutilated body was found on open land several days after the assault in January 1989.

Klaus von Lieres, attorney-general for the Witwatersrand, has gone on record saying he would consider Mrs Mandela's role as an accessory after Richardson had been sentenced. Adriano Vlok, minister of law and order, has said: "We are proceeding care-

fully so as not to give any indication that we are acting vindictively against Mrs Mandela."

After two days of evidence in mitigation, in which it was claimed that Richardson, aged 41, was retarded, and idolised Mrs Mandela, whose approval he sought, Mr Justice O'Donovan ruled there were no extenuating circumstances.

He said the murder of Stompie, "hardly more than a child", was premeditated and particularly brutal. He added: "It is difficult to see how kidnap and murder can be mitigated by the desire to please anybody."

Richardson, who was also sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment for attempted murder, kidnapping and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, has an automatic right of appeal.

During the trial it was revealed that Stompie and the other youths were abducted from a Methodist church manse in Soweto and taken to the Mandela home.

Stompie was accused of being a police informer and the others of having had homosexual relations with a minister. The boys were beaten with sjamboks and their blood covered the walls of the room. One of the four, Kenny Kgasi, alleged that Mrs Mandela punched him, and beat Stompie to the ground.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers called a witness who testified that she was hundreds of miles away in the Orange Free State at the time, but the judge said the evidence "did not impress".

In February, President de Klerk halted judicial executions to help create the climate for negotiation with black leaders on a new constitution.

A decision whether to proceed against Mrs Mandela comes at a critical point in the peace process. A prosecution would give her a chance to clear her name — she declined to give evidence during Richardson's trial — while a decision not to prosecute would be interpreted in many quarters as political.

Also, Mr Mandela's credibility would be exposed, possibly endangering negotiations.

Mr Mandela has stood firmly by his wife and refused to answer questions about the Richardson case during his recent overseas tour. It was on his orders, issued while he was still in prison, that the "Mandela United Football Club" was disbanded two months after Stompie's murder.

In a separate case at the Rand Supreme Court, in which a member of the club is facing multiple murder and attempted murder charges, a witness has claimed that Mrs Mandela "mandated" the accused, Charles Zwane, to kill her son.

However, Mr von Lieres has said the allegation would have no bearing on his decision on whether to prosecute Mrs Mandela.



Running battle: Liberian rebels loyal to Charles Taylor leading an attack against President Doe's troops at Paynesville, east of Monrovia. Taylor sides believe Lagos is supplying arms to the beleaguered president

ANC chiefs in township mission to sell truce

By RAY KENNEDY

SENIOR members of the African National Congress are going into black townships throughout South Africa to explain why the organisation's armed struggle has been suspended.

The ANC is making the issue a priority after accusations by radical organisations and some of its own members that it has made more concessions than the government. A newspaper advertisement campaign is also to be launched to convey the message.

A key problem facing the ANC since the announcement of the ceasefire, ordered after talks with the government in Pretoria on Monday, is how it is going to be enforced.

Only two weeks ago, at the height of a dispute over police allegations of a "red plot" to infiltrate hardline guerrillas into the country, Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, agreed the congress had not succeeded in making contact with all of its members to tell them of the pledge to seek a peaceful solution that was made at initial talks with the government in May.

Meanwhile, Joe Slovo, the secretary-general of the South African Communist Party and a member of the ANC national executive, has said the ANC will not hesitate to resume the armed struggle if it feels the government and the security forces are not living up to the Pretoria agreement. President de Klerk's priority was to control the police force.

China and Indonesia renew diplomatic ties

By DAVID WATTS

AFTER years of cautious rapprochement, China and Indonesia yesterday restored diplomatic relations, closing an extraordinary era in Peking's relations with South-East Asia and easing the isolation of the Chinese after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"(We agreed) to let bygones be bygones and look to the future," Li Peng, the Chinese premier, said after the two countries signed agreements to restore diplomatic relations and step up economic co-operation. Mr Li said he was confident that China would not follow East European nations into Western-style democracy. "Now China enjoys political stability. The socialist system in China is stable and what happened in Eastern European countries will not happen in China."

But the new chapter — Singapore and Malaysia look set to follow suit shortly — is qualified by an uneasiness about the direction of the old men ruling in Peking.

A key question is whether they will go back to the sort of regional political adventure which culminated in the bloody events in Indonesia in 1965, when hundreds of thousands of Indonesians turned on members of what was then the world's largest legal communist party outside the com-

munist bloc and killed half a million of them, or whether the countries of South-East Asia will be able to start living without one fearful eye on the dragon to the north.

The full story of the 1965 coup is not yet known — the leader of the Indonesian party, the PKI, escaped to Peking and the American Central Intelligence Agency denied any role. But a retired CIA officer recently admitted that the agency had played a role in the events which later brought the then General Suharto to power and dispensed with the services of President Sukarno. Sukarno's brilliant oratory mesmerised the peasantry and unified a nation. But his socialist policies and predilection for the nightclubs of Tokyo helped bring the economy of the world's largest nominally Muslim country to its knees.

There is still doubt whether the communists, who were strongly supported by Sukarno, were intent on a takeover or whether the Indonesian military and its Western sympathisers decided to use them as a vehicle to rid the country of Sukarno.

The rest of South-East Asia has hung back awaiting the Indonesian lead on restoring official links with Peking. Singapore has many un-

Armenian leader in talks on arms edict

From NICK WORRALL
IN MOSCOW

AS THE deadline approached for unofficial Soviet armed groups to obey President Gorbachev's decree and hand in their weapons, Levon Ter-Petrosian, the new nationalist president of Armenia, flew to Moscow yesterday for two days of talks with government leaders aimed at averting a clash between his supporters and the Soviet army.

On July 25, Mr Gorbachev instructed all unauthorised armed units to disband within 15 days and surrender their weapons. The limit expires at midnight tonight. The decree said that force would be used against those who defied it.

Armenia is estimated to have between 20,000 and 40,000 armed men who, according to reports reaching Moscow, have engaged Soviet troops. Armenia's parliament suspended the presidential decree, thereby appearing to encourage the partisans.

According to Tass, the initiative for yesterday's visit came from Mr Gorbachev in a telephone call to President Ter-Petrosian on Tuesday. It was not clear whether the Soviet leader, on holiday in the Crimea, was planning to return to Moscow.

Omens are ill for peace force plan in Liberia

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

AFTER enduring weeks of suffering, the ordinary people of Liberia can be excused for greeting the proposed intervention of a West African peacekeeping force in their war-torn nation with a huge sigh of relief. At long last, it must appear to them, the outside world has recognised their appalling situation as they are squashed remorselessly between two ruthless and mutually hostile rebel factions and the pitiless regime of President Doe.

Even if the West African initiative does succeed, as Liberians are praying it will, the objective of getting the warring factions, with all the innocent blood they have on their hands, to sit down peacefully around the table and discuss the nation's future above politics and tribe strikes some observers as unrealistic.

Persuading a half-crazed dictator and two notably bloodthirsty rebel commanders to knuckle under for the good of the nation will certainly take some doing and West African states could find military intervention turning into a long drawn-out engagement in a land where human life now comes terribly cheap.

Jews stone West Bank vehicles

Jerusalem — Jewish mobs stoned Palestinian-owned cars yesterday in a third day of violence. Teddy Kollek, the mayor, said the rioting has sharpened divisions. The attacks erupted after two Jewish youths, Ronen Karamani, aged 18, and Lior Tubul, 17, were killed, apparently by Palestinian militants.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, said Israel must respond to the killings by deporting 150 leaders of the Palestinian uprising. The mobs stoned Arab-owned cars and taxis. (AP)

Bogotá battle

Bogotá — César Gaviria, Colombia's new president, will turn the fight against his country's drug barons into an international effort (A Correspondent writes). After being sworn in on Tuesday, he said he expects the West to fight money laundering and arms trafficking.

Trial put off

Bucharest — The trial of 23 members of the Ceausescu politburo was adjourned yesterday owing to the ill-health of two of the defendants (Tim Judah writes). The defendants have been charged with "complicity to genocide" in last December's bloody revolution.

Trinidad plan

Port of Spain — Winston Dookeran, acting prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has announced a reconstruction plan after the recent coup attempt. Damage to property is estimated at \$70 million (£37 million). He said public administration buildings will be repaired soon. (AP)

Train blast

Moscow — An explosion last month on a Soviet train, which killed five people, was caused by a crooked businessman, investigators said. The bomber, identified as Asker Aksakov, was among the victims. Tass said he had stolen money and wanted to feign his own death. (Reuters)

Test of strength

Delhi — Devi Lal, India's sacked deputy prime minister, will challenge the government today with a farmers rally, viewed as the start of a struggle between the country's rural masses and the urban elite. Mr Lal expects to bring one million people to Delhi in a test of his strength. (Reuters)

Thieves crucified

Cairo — Sudan crucified two men yesterday, six years after they were convicted of armed robbery. The Sudanese news agency, Suna, said Hamid Suliman and Arguci Turgawi Gareeb were put to death in western Sudan after being sentenced in 1984. (Reuters)

Hostages hope

Sidon — Two Swiss hostages were expected to be freed yesterday. Elio Enriquez, aged 24, and Emmanuel Christen, 33, were kidnapped last October. The Palestinian Revolutionary Faction said it would free them in response to wishes of the Syrian, Libyan and Algerian leaders. (Reuters)

Topless judge

Prague — A judge, aged 27, who took part in a topless beauty contest, has been reprimanded. (Peter Green wires). Brigitte Volopichova was placed second in the contest. Her colleagues thought it was undignified and reprimanded her, drawing a veil over the whole affair.

Unity proposal stalls in East Germany

From JOHN HOLLAND IN EAST BERLIN

EAST Germany's parliament, the Volkskammer, appeared headed towards rejection yesterday of a proposal for immediate reunification with West Germany, but unity still seemed to be little further away than eight weeks.

A number of Social Democrats, at one point in the heated proceedings, left the parliament hall in protest at statements made by a Christian Democratic opponent in a debate over the timetable of reunification.

The extraordinary session yesterday was likely to vote on three or four proposals for the country's reunification with West Germany as soon as international talks and the country's state treaty are

sorted out. The first proposal calls for immediate reunification or the September option is also likely to be accepted by his nervous party colleagues, whose constituents are already faced with layoffs.

Christian Democrats East and West, led by Herr Kohl, want unity and all-German elections to fall in mid-October. The Social Democrats in both countries want to see unity on September 15, or three days after the last session of the "two-plus-four" talks on the German question in New York are convened. Herr Kohl and his allies appear to believe that the longer unity is held off, and then tied to an election, the less blame can be attributed to his go-fast policies.

Out of step: East German troops goose-stepping as they changed guard in East Berlin yesterday, a day after the government abolished the step for the army



Out of step: East German troops goose-stepping as they changed guard in East Berlin yesterday, a day after the government abolished the step for the army

Securitate men cash in on the Hungarian café connection

By GABRIEL RONAY

NICOLAE Ceausescu's redundant Securitate agents are alive and well and making a fortune in contraband deals. The hub of their operations is a seedy café in Budapest from where they make their runs to France and West Germany.

This "Hungarian connection" fits into the well-established "French connection" of these inexplicably well-heeled "refugees" travelling on dubious passports, a well-informed Budapest source says. These Romanians ply their trade in Mercedes cars with West German numbers and de luxe Renaults with French licence plates.

At the Café Bucharist, the Hungarian capital's rundown Béla Boulevard, beefy Romanians offer bundles of grubby

German marks and dollars at a reasonable exchange rate and mysterious parcels change hands at the back tables and on the pavement outside. The Bucharist is a relic of the days of the communist friendship among the nations, when state-run restaurants were freely named after the capitals of neighbouring states. There is no other official link with Romania, but, apparently, this is enough to get the "new refugees" to congregate there, according to the Budapest newspaper *Magyar Nemzet*.

"I am frightened of them," a waitress told the paper. "Do not tell me that our clientele is made up of innocent refugees. Look at their women: gold is dripping from their ears, arms and fingers."

The patrons of the café are big spenders with wads of bank notes casually stuffed into their pockets. Most customers left the café when the *Magyar Nemzet* reporter said that he was a journalist.

One well-dressed Romanian chose silence when asked how, as a new refugee, he had so much money and a smart Mercedes outside. A further question about the line of business he was in was also treated with dumb contempt.

Meanwhile, boxes and parcels were changing hands in rapid deals in the café. Spirited police, awaiting full democratisation, appeared to be turning a blind eye.

"It would seem that they are dealing in several commodities here," the newspaper said. "The deals are occasionally loud, occasionally in whispers. One could only hazard a guess what is in the parcels that are changing hands at

the parked cars outside the café." An habitué of the Bucharist indignantly rebutted a suggestion that among the rich refugees there might be a sprinkling of former, or perhaps present-day, Romanian agents. He insisted that he was not a Romanian anyway but French. To prove his point, he insisted on showing his French car outside.

"Clearly these boys are leaving nothing to chance," the reporter said. "Equally clearly they know perfectly, and observe, the methods of conspiracy. This could only be acquired if one is a dissident of long standing or a secret policeman persecuting them."

When I dropped into the café for a luncheon drink during a trip to Budapest not long ago, the conversation stopped suddenly at the plastic tables and only resumed when they heard me talk in English to my wife. The snatches of conversations I overheard — and understood — did not sound like innocent patter of refugees waiting

for something to turn up. According to the *Magyar Nemzet* sources, the idea of a "revolution" in Romania was first mentioned at the café late last November, when the Romanian dictator was still safe in his Bucharist palace.

There followed a sudden spate of visitors who were discussing the chances of a military *putsch* in Romania.

The paper added: "It created a bit of a surprise among observant Hungarians that the well-heeled Romanian patrons of the café became distressed and enraged upon hearing about the Timisoara protest demonstrations in December. Clearly, this did not fit into

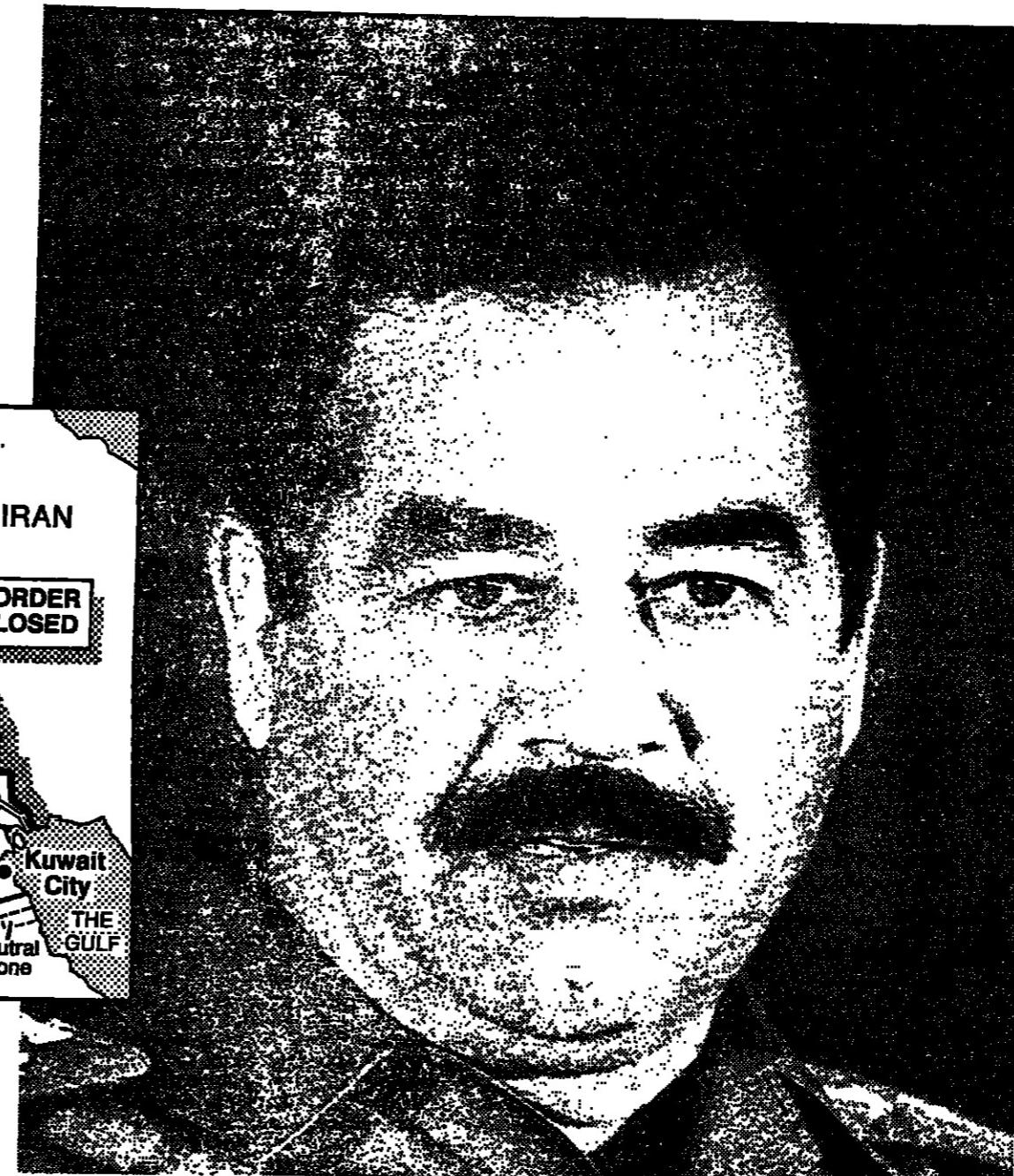
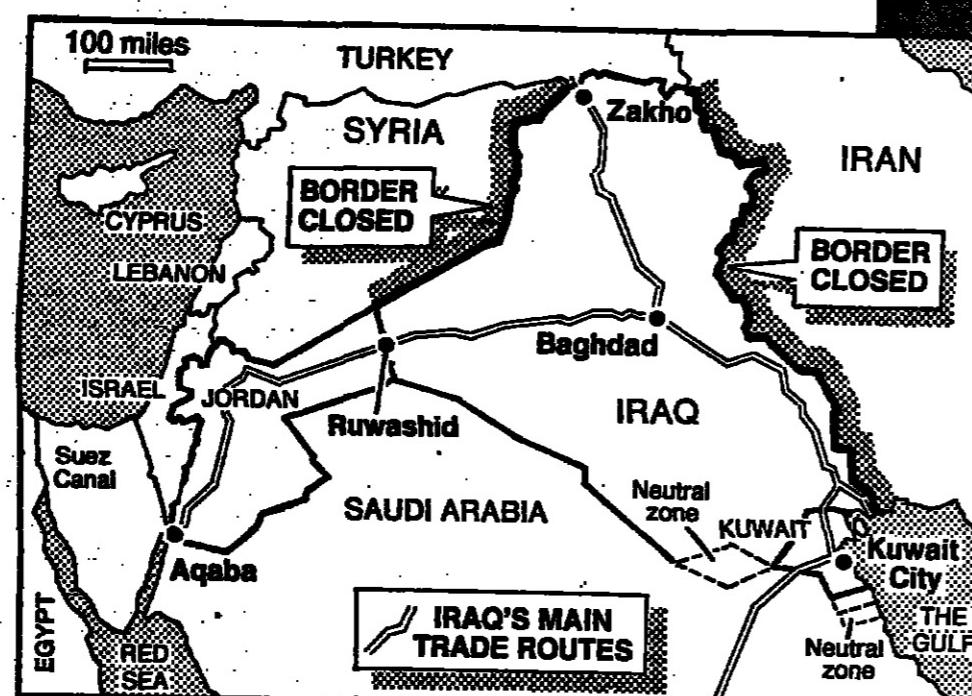
Since then, a new kind of clientele has made the Bucharist

their home from home.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 9 1990

WORLD IN CRISIS



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NEWS

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Now praise this man of piety

Edward Norman

There is something surprising, even mysterious, about the extent of Cardinal Newman's reputation in the modern world as we come to mark the centenary of his death this Saturday. For almost all the things he believed most passionately are not features of contemporary Christian understanding. At the centre of his religious vision lay an insistence on dogma, and a rejection of liberalism in religion — "the doctrine", as he put it late in life, "that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another". His conversion to Catholicism in 1845 resulted from a conviction that Christian belief had to be based on clear authority. Christ, he recognised, had committed his truth not to a philosophical system or an ethical code, but to a communion of believers. Who were they in the England of the mid-19th century? Newman thought it crucial to identify the tradition within which religious insights are validated.

In the first half of his life, as a clerical don, Newman sensed that the authentication of doctrine by the dignitaries of the Church of England was rather imprecise. At the time, furthermore, Eriksen forces were leading to the parliamentary abolition of ancient bishoprics in Ireland, disposed of as one might cast out old furniture. Gradually, in steps recounted in his famous *Apologia* of 1864, he realised that the church of antiquity was represented in the Roman Catholic Church of his day, whatever its corruptions or alien cultural associations. To defect to its ranks showed real heroism, for it meant giving up the don's comfortable life for an institution that had for centuries been the embodiment of all that Englishmen loathed.

Newman was not attracted to the Catholic Church by its ritual or sacred theatre. He was light years away from the subsequent converts from Anglicanism, whose camp antics amused the Irish labourers actually occupying Catholic places of worship in England.

Newman's religious ideas showed a single progression throughout his life, and the conversion of 1845 was scarcely more than a punctuation; a recognition that the doctrine of the church he had come to espouse was more faithfully represented within the Catholic Church than within the Church of England. Anglicans still have no adequate doctrine, but Newman's insistence on exact doctrine does not much interest contemporary Christianity: there is, instead, an impatience with those who place dogma before the practical work of Christianity, and the leadership tends to prefer ambiguous forms of words in the hope of avoiding controversy. Newman was above all a controversialist who believed that truth emerges from the testing of ideas.

He also thought that the ills of

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

We were sitting on blankets in a field by the sea — a mother, a father, four children and I — and there remained on a serving dish the remnants of a picnic: one cherry tomato stuffed with tuna fish mayonnaise, sprouting a sprig of parsley just beginning to wither and yellow in the afternoon sun. "Eat that nice tomato," I advised the youngest of the children.

"Shan't," said the child. "You eat it."

"Shan't," I said, pouring a glug of peach brandy from my Pimm's; good drink Pimm's with a peach brandy, gives it authority and saves you having to find lemon slices and cucumber, mint and borage. "I could drink this stuff until the rains come," I said to nobody in particular.

"If there was only one thing that you could eat, from now on, for ever and ever and ever, what would it be?" asks the brother of the child who has declined to eat the tomato.

"What would you choose?" said I, buying time.

"Brown bread, egg and cress sandwiches, cut into soldiers," said the child, possibly because I had eaten the last one. I explained that one would get tired of egg and cress sandwiches, however they are cut. There is a terrible sameness about eggs and cress. Also, the eggs would get you, as they got Mrs Currie. Cruel things hard-boiled eggs are; take no prisoners.

We listened to the weather report on the car radio. "No change," said the woman from the Met Office, not a drop of rain as far as the eye can see.

"There would come a time," said I, reverting to the chosen food, "when you would be faced with number 612 egg and cress buttie and would scream, 'Not egg again.' I mentioned that there was no country in the world that had eggs as a staple: some had rice, some corn meal, some cabbage soup and some beans. None had eggs.

"And some have bacon-flavoured crisps," said the younger girl. "I would never get tired of bacon-flavoured crisps."

"What two things in the air make a woman pregnant?" asked the father. We shook our

mankind were moral and spiritual rather than social or political. This too is in contrast with the priorities of contemporary Christianity, which is reserved about "other-worldly" attitudes. Newman saw with an extraordinary prophetic clarity how the Christians of his own times were beginning to substitute benevolence and social concern for actual religion. The interior corruption of men and women, he contended, was such that their natures needed to be re-cast, not merely tinkered with. A religion of social benevolence which emphasised practical applications of Christianity would, he supposed, end by demeaning men, for they would be satisfied by the ordinary human decencies of the natural order and remain unmoved by the higher truths of revelation. Men were called to transcendence. A pervasive concern with the conditions of material well-being, however greatly to be desired for other reasons, was liable to overlay their spiritual capacities with merely human requirements. Newman also saw that the substitutes for religion which men would come to rely on were those which offer aesthetic satisfaction: love of music, art and so on. Such accomplishments he regarded as mere simulations of spiritual elevation.

In his *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* (1845) and *The Grammar of Assent* (1870), Newman produced ideas of lasting value, which stand independently of his time and context. He seeks to show how historical change and human culture are related to the transmission of religious ideas, and to explain how religious certainty may be achieved by those who are incapable of appreciating formal philosophical propositions. Both books are still read with respect by academics.

He has been said to have adhered to virtually every modern piety, yet the Newman cult is greater than this can explain. Why should a converted Anglican scholar, who spent the first part of his life in an Oxford college, and the second in an oratory in Birmingham, attract such a following?

He was distrusted in his own day by the leaders of the Church of England (who found his preoccupation with doctrinal truth unhealthy), and by the Catholic hierarchy (who suspected him of liberalism). Until 1879, when at the age of 78, he received a cardinal's hat, he was never given any office or recognition by either of his churches. He was oversensitive, domineering and fastidious, as well as generous, loyal, and holy. He made a lasting contribution to religious thought, and his stature derives from the power of his writing and the sanctity of his nature. He was the greatest English Christian of the last two centuries.

The author is chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury.

Why Bush is treating Kuwait as a modern Pearl Harbor

With sanctions starting to hurt and the US determined to tighten the net,

Conor Cruise O'Brien believes

Saddam Hussein's regime is doomed

Saddam Hussein probably hasn't much longer to live. If he can't sell his oil, he can't pay his troops, and if he can't pay them, they will kill him.

This is not at all the same as saying that the crisis is nearly over. On the contrary, the crisis is entering its most dangerous phase. When Saddam sees doom staring him in the face, as he must before long, he will want to take as many people with him as possible. At that stage, any Europeans and Americans remaining in territory held by him will be in grave danger. So will Israel.

Before he falls, Saddam will want to make good his threat to "scorch" half of Israel with chemical weapons. In that way he would make his exit in a blaze of Arab glory. In the Arab memory, Saddam Hussein would be a hero, and Arab governments which appear to have let him down — most notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt — would be in danger.

Sanctions are going to work this time; indeed, are already working. The contrast between the present determined activity and the kind of sanctions applied over Rhodesia is striking. The difference is that in the case of Rhodesia, no power was interested in making sanctions work, whereas in the case of Iraq, the most powerful country on earth is determined that sanctions shall succeed. No other country altogether shares the determination of the United States in this matter, but neither is anyone inclined to back Iraq against the US.

The reasons for America's determination are partly economic and partly political. As always, since the crucial decisions have to be taken by a politician, the main reasons are political. By invading Kuwait, Saddam Hussein was seen as defying the United States, and if he were to get away with that, there would

probably be no second term for George Bush. That is motivation enough.

In his televised statement yesterday afternoon, the president appeared appropriately resolute. He had the apparently unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, and — according to a poll of 80 per cent of the American people. Casualties may diminish this initial support, but probably not to a great degree. Unlike Vietnam, this is a clear-cut case of aggression, comparable to Pearl Harbor.

Although the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not a direct attack on American territory, it was an attack on a country vital to the American economy, and it threatens other territories which are similarly vital. The impact of the Iraqi aggression is something that Americans, as well as Europeans, are already experiencing in their daily lives. In the circumstances, the president's stand is just what is expected of him.

The president is also fortified by the unprecedented extent and strength of international support for action against Saddam Hussein. Americans always like to think that they have world opinion on their side. Over Vietnam they had not, but over Iraq they have. Britain's prompt commitment is particularly helpful to Mr Bush, as is Turkey's pipeline action.

As an old United Nations hand, I am happy to see the UN at last functioning as it was intended to, with the five permanent members working in harmony. Happy, and a little envious. When I worked for the UN, 29 years ago, attempting to end the secession of Katanga from the Congo (now Zaire), things were very different. There were then effectively only four permanent members, since the fifth seat, that of China, was still occupied by a US client, Taiwan. Of the four, only one — the United



States — gave any support to the then secretary general, Dag Hammarskjöld, in his efforts to implement a Security Council resolution calling for an end to the secession. Of the other members, the Soviet Union was demanding the resignation of the secretary general while Britain and France — though ostensibly supporting him — were determined to sabotage his efforts.

Under those conditions, representing the secretary general in the trouble-spot of the time, Katanga, was a disconcerting experience, though most instructive about the realities of international relations. Yet even that much-troubled

international effort was eventually brought to a successful conclusion once the United States overcame its hesitations and committed itself fully to supporting the UN forces, politically and logically. That being so, I have no doubt about the early success of the present international efforts, with the US fully committed from the beginning, and with no serious opposition except that of Iraq.

Success is inevitable, but the cost is likely to be high. On the radio yesterday, I heard an American commentator suggest that Americans and Europeans in Iraq and Kuwait are in no danger. That strikes me as an irresponsible and

unrealistic statement. Given Saddam Hussein's ferocious record, it must be assumed that he is likely to treat as hostages at least some of the Europeans and Americans within his grasp. Indeed the knowledge that by invading Kuwait he would acquire a number of American and European hostages was probably one of the factors that led Saddam Hussein to believe that he could get away with it.

Since 1979, all Middle Eastern despots have been aware of America's sensitivity and consequent vulnerability to the taking of hostages. But Saddam Hussein may well have exaggerated the importance of this. President Bush is now so committed to defeating Saddam Hussein that he cannot draw back because of threats to hostages, or even after executions. And if hostages are executed, the American public is likely to blame Saddam Hussein, and not George Bush. In countries less committed to the defeat of Iraq, public reactions might be somewhat different. In any case, the international enterprise is unlikely to be defeated.

Israel is taking Saddam Hussein's threats seriously. Gas masks are being issued to all Israelis, and I am sure other measures are being considered.

If Israel can safely come through the present period of acute danger, its international position will be greatly enhanced. As far as the US is concerned, Yasser Arafat and the PLO have put themselves permanently beyond the pale by aligning themselves with America's enemy. The alliance between the US and Israel, which had seemed obsolescent because of the end of the cold war, is renewed by Saddam Hussein's aggression.

The United States is reminded that the Middle East remains a highly unstable and unpredictable area, where America has only one reliable friend (I don't count Saudi Arabia, because its government may change when the US forces withdraw). So the Israeli government is unlikely to come under serious pressure from Washington to negotiate with the Palestinians for a long time to come.

Bernard Levin's column will appear on Saturday.

Peter Stothard, US editor, on dangerous opportunities beckoning America's defence contractors

Bandits looking for a lucky strike

In the next few days, US forces will be deployed in the desert against an adversary armed with shells full of blistering mustard gas and missiles tipped with nerve-destroying chemicals. To meet this threat each American marine will have a protective suit, but these will make it hard for them to talk, work, and remain hydrated, let alone fight in the Saudi Arabian heat and sand.

Every war leads to reconsideration of military equipment and strategy. Even before this Gulf conflict is fully under way, Pentagon officials are considering new options and defence contractors are eyeing new opportunities. Yesterday in Washington the state of anti-chemical weapon readiness was the first concern.

In 1979 President Carter's high-tech helicopter-borne assault on the American embassy in Tehran was ruined by sand in the engines. The mission to repel Saddam is vulnerable to the same elements, and the same theoretical uncertainties about operating far from home.

The reduction in Soviet power has led legislators to change their priorities. The "peace dividend" is now at the top. The protection of local defence industry jobs, whatever their purpose, comes second. In general, they look suspiciously upon such high-tech items as the

means hope. The Bush presidency has been a lean time for them.

The industry's lobbyists, with their offices on the Washington ringroad, are sometimes known as the "beltway bandits", but according to John Spratt of South Carolina, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the bandits have struggled in their attempts to suggest that threats from the Third World are replacing the threat from the Soviet Union.

They have become "a little more earnest," he says, and "more imaginative" in selling their wares. There has been a sharp increase in knocking copy — the buckers of the expensive new V-22 Osprey helicopter may spend as much time excoriating the strategic defence initiative or the B-2 bomber as in praising their own product — but their efforts have brought little success.

The reduction in Soviet power has led legislators to change their priorities. The "peace dividend" is now at the top. The protection of local defence industry jobs, whatever their purpose, comes second. In general, they look suspiciously upon such high-tech items as the

strategic defence initiative and any commitments which smell of the cold war, such as the transport planes required for a rapid reinforcement of Europe.

Accepting what seemed the inevitable earlier this year, the administration offered Congress an \$11 billion cut in the budget for the McDonnell Douglas C-17 transport plane. Similar delays and cuts loomed for advanced air-defence fighters. Now those decisions do not look so good. Rapid deployment and air defence are central to the Saudi Arabian campaign.

Critics of defence industry opportunism have been arguing that decline in Soviet power in Europe should allow cuts in other US forces too. "A lot of the rationale for US involvement in the Third World has been the Soviet influence there," the influential Stanley R. Sloan of the Congressional Research Service said recently.

It has been pointed out that the Gulf navy patrols to protect Kuwaiti tankers from Iran in 1987 were justified chiefly by the need to offset Soviet forces in the region. The Carter doctrine, it is

recalled, was designed to keep the Soviets out of the Gulf, not primarily to prevent a regional power from establishing hegemony. Now, that approach looks outmoded; is Saudi Arabia needs to be protected from a hostile neighbour, and if it is not protected, America will be staring at the wreckage of an economy that is founded upon secure supplies of reasonably-priced imported oil.

Americans' first thought has to be how to protect themselves from the most likely threat. The Kuwait crisis is an opportunity for the administration to get a better grip on a defence debate which had largely been taken from its hands.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, has already been using the past week's events as proof of the need for slow and rational defence cuts, not a crazy helter-skelter. His arguments stand a good chance of prevailing, and Saddam Hussein's ambitions will certainly be good news for defence lobbyists in future. In the business of supplying arms, one man's vicious threat soon becomes another man's competitive advantage.

However, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait will also severely test some of the claims made in past deals by contractors with the Pentagon. As the British navy found in the Falklands campaign, the proof of sophisticated military technology is how well it performs in action. Americans have not forgotten that three years ago sophisticated Gulf patrol ships were virtually crippled by the crudest low-tech floating mines, nor how the USS Stark was hit by an Iraqi missile which it should easily have shot down, nor how an Iranian civilian airliner was destroyed by a US missile-operator who thought he had a bomber in his sights.

Proof of performance in action is the best selling-point any lobbyist can have in his briefcase: the Falklands War is continually re-fought on film whenever a British salesman wants to sell some of the kit which regaled Port Stanley. But failure can discredit any fancy brochure.

Since luck is the essential gift of any general, these are nervous times for those whose financial future depends on their weapons making the lucky strikes.

Labour is first with the fax

Seldom slow these days to trumpet its free-market credentials, the Labour party has stolen a public relations march on the Tories. But it does not come cheap.

In a move that should make even Conservative Central Office glib, Walworth Road has written to all PR consultancies offering them subscriptions to a new Labour facsimile information service. And the price for being at the leading edge of Labour's thinking? A crisp £1,000 a year. The Tories have their own information service for companies, but it is not visibly high-tech; it comes through the mail and sets subscribers back a mere £35 a year.

Another thing in fish cakes' favour, something that cannot be said for summer pudding or risotto, is that whatever you drink goes brilliantly with them: beers, ciders, wines of any colour and degree of sparkle.

Also, a well-made fish cake, one containing 70 per cent flaked salmon to 30 per cent roughly mashed potato bound in a well-seasoned anchovy-flavoured white sauce, shaped into discs, brushed with beaten egg, dried in toasted bread-crumb then fried in clarified butter can be enjoyed hot or cold, or at any temperature in between, which is more than you can say for ravioli and shepherd's pie.

The afternoon wore on. A wasp landed on the lonely tomato. "What two things?" I asked the father.

"Her legs," he said.

papers. Ironically, several of the companies targeted for this exercise employ Tory MPs as consultants, and have regularly been attacked by the Labour left.

Labour MP Dennis Skinner is not impressed by this latest marketing ploy by the party's outgoing communications director Peter Mandelson. "I would not want to take money from companies that let Tory MPs moonlight from their proper jobs," he says. "This is trying to take money from puppies with 12ft papaya plants in their back gardens. It's Mandelson's last throw."

There is no indication yet whether Senator Joseph Biden, who was accused of plagiarising Mr Kinnock's speeches in the US presidential contest, will be putting his name down for a subscription.

• **Edwina Currie** was only too willing to listen when an elderly lady rushed up to her in South Derbyshire constituency and delivered a cascade of praise. As the former health minister beamed, the flattery flowed on and on. "You are so wonderful I have even written to British Telecom to tell them," she gushed. With furrowed brow, Mrs Currie inquired: "Have you got the right person?" Softly Edwina replied: "You are Maureen Lipman, aren't you?"

Icon has flown

Statues of Lenin have been keeping over throughout Eastern Europe in recent months. Now the icon of the Russian Revolution has been unceremoniously removed from his vantage point in the head office of Aeroflot in London.

United Kingdom commissioner, is keen to move. While the army's international headquarters will remain at Queen Victoria Street, he believes the UK arm needs a home of its own to reflect its administrative independence.

One suggestion is to move to the army's training college at Deneham Hill designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, its tower dominating the south London skyline. It was built to house the army's first cadets, who tended to be single. "But most of our cadets are married with children now," says Captain Charles King, an army official.

Gen Booth would not approve of such upheaval. It's sort of thing that might drive a lesser man to drink.

• **James Atkins** may have to live with the snappy sobriquet of "sports miniature" after his first appearance at The Oval, home of Surrey cricket club. James, the 11-year-old son of the new sports minister, Robert Atkins, opened the innings for John Major's side in a charity match to raise cash for young people in cricket sponsored by the Chancellor. Runs were in short



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ARMS AND SADDAM

Never start a war without knowing its end. The oldest maxim in history needs retelling every time a soldier picks up a weapon. Today, the United States of America has embarked on its most daring military adventure since its defeat in Vietnam. The cause is just and deserves the active support of the whole world. Although that support has been forthcoming in principle, notably from the United Nations, so far only Britain and the rulers of Saudi Arabia have put words into deeds.

None of this lessens the need to concentrate on what the world's intentions are. Yesterday, President Bush and the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, offered a variety of objectives. Mr Bush clearly indicated that American objectives were the "withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait" and the "restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government". He said, however, that the mission of the force being sent to the Middle East was "not to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait" — a role he allocated to economic sanctions under the auspices of the United Nations. His mission was to "deter any further acts of aggression". He said, many times, that his purpose was purely defensive.

Whether these forces are ultimately to try to topple Saddam Hussein in the way that American planes once tried to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi is thus left unclear. Plainly, they are in a position to stage some sort of counter-invasion of Kuwait and attempt the expulsion of the Iraqi occupiers, in accordance with Mr Bush's stated objectives. Plainly they could sit for an eternity in the desert, an expensive insurance policy against further Iraqi aggression towards Saudi Arabia or other Middle East states.

At this stage, America is probably right to leave this lack of clarity in the air. The "pure" defence of Saudi Arabia and the later use of naval and air forces to secure an economic blockade are not mutually exclusive. Events have already made ominously clear what might be the "worst case" outcome of the past week's events: an Iraqi expansion into neighbouring territories, perhaps involving chemical weapons, possibly followed by a widespread regional destabilisation and resulting threats to the security of Israel, Jordan and the Gulf states. In these circumstances, Western interests in the future of energy supplies clearly require a precautionary presence.

But Mr Bush may soon require qualities of

statesmanship over and above those of the commander-in-chief. What, for instance, if the defensive role of his Saudi deployments is successful, but does not achieve his declared objective of restoring the sovereignty of Kuwait? A shrewd Saddam — and the man is shrewd as well as ruthless — might pull his troops and tanks back from the Saudi border but garrison his newly-annexed conquest.

Seen from the standpoint of middle America, distant states, poor and of uncertain political stability, can seem pathetically easy targets when the world is united and the might of the US and even of the Soviet Union is ranged against them. Yet few military experts would advise a ground assault on Saddam, even assuming the restoration of the Kuwaiti royal family were considered a gain proportionate to the devastating cost of such a war. Massive air strikes against key installations and a prolonged naval blockade might devastate much of Iraq, though it would also sign the death warrant of Kuwait. Whether this would topple Saddam, with or without a ground assault, is doubtful. Other Arab states would quickly lose stomach for such a fight.

Hence the crucial role of Mr Bush's rider: that the task of toppling Saddam must fall to economic sanctions. Sanctions are historically a weak weapon. The best that can be said for them here, as Mrs Thatcher said earlier this week, is that those now in prospect are unusually powerful. Force may have to be threatened in a blockade, but force used for this purpose would have behind it the authority, it would be hoped, of the United Nations. Such force would be of a different order, though with the same end, as an American air or ground assault on Iraq itself. But on such force the world must, for the time being, depend in its confrontation with Saddam.

International solidarity against Iraq depends on states such as Saudi Arabia being able to say that they have taken part in graduated pressure against Iraqi aggression. The Saudis, or other Arabs in a multilateral force, must not be left vulnerable to the accusation that they licensed the return of Western imperialism in the Middle East. Fear of this ran through the words of Egypt's President Mubarak yesterday. The task of American diplomacy is thus to convince not just the American (and British) people that Mr Bush is doing the right thing, but to convince the Middle East as well.

INTELLIGENT INTELLIGENCE

Grave consequences for individual Britons and for British interests, have flowed from the apparent failure of MI6 to predict the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This must be counted the most serious mistake by British intelligence since the failure to indicate the timing of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands.

This time the oversight was in many ways less excusable, both because electronic surveillance has improved since 1982, and the issue in Kuwait was more straightforward. In a context of heightened tension, intelligence had to answer a straight question: was Saddam Hussein's military build-up merely intended to frighten Kuwait, or did he mean business? Margaret Thatcher was annoyed that the answer she received was the wrong one. As a result, the British ambassador in Baghdad went on holiday, British troops were left vulnerable to hostage-taking and a British jet was allowed to land in Kuwait.

Since the second world war, the quality of those working in British intelligence has been subject to periodic concern. The depressing aspect of the series of spy scandals since the war has been the mediocrity of the individuals in whom the secret services were prepared to place the nation's trust. Prime ministers since Churchill have jealously husbanded their exclusive control of MI5 and MI6 and the result has not been a good advertisement for control through ministerial responsibility. From time to time there have been shake-ups, but always within the same closed intelligence community. No mining village is as tight-knit.

Mrs Thatcher knew better than most that self-regulation by closed circles of privileged — and male-dominated — professionals is not a recipe for radicalism. An experienced prime minister, demonstrably dedicated to the defence of national interests, should be well-placed to carry through a reform of British intelligence.

TRAINING ON TRACK

A political commonplace is that Britain's workforce needs to become better skilled. Unless this happens urgently, British workers after 1992 face being too highly paid to compete with those in Spain, Portugal or Greece, and too poorly skilled to compete with those in France, Germany or Italy. The government says it understands the importance of training, yet budgets continue to be cut and schemes are in danger of being stifled by bureaucracy.

Now a leaked memorandum shows that industrialists involved on the new Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) are distressed that their budgets are to be cut to £2.4 billion from the original estimate of £3 billion with the threat of more reductions to come; and frustrated by edicts from Whitehall that prevent them from spending their money in what they judge to be the most useful way.

Labour has overplayed its hand by adding this memorandum as evidence of a "crisis in government training policy". In fact it is little more than a bargaining chip in this year's public expenditure round. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is doubtless on the TEC chairmen's side in wanting more money. But the industrialists' anxiety does illustrate the government's ambivalent attitude to training: wanting industry to become more involved, yet reluctant to relinquish control; wanting standards of training to improve, yet unwilling to provide the necessary money.

In a perfect market economy, all training would be provided and paid for by employers.

Here, an imperfect market has failed to deliver. Some employers train their workforce; others expect a free ride by poaching already trained workers. Pockets of high unemployment still co-exist with skill shortages. The economy would grow faster, and with lower inflation, were the square pegs to be sent to the workshop so that they fitted round holes. It is this combination of market failure and public good that justifies the spending of public money on training. The Treasury argues that, with the fall in unemployment, less money is needed for training. More, however, must still be spent on retraining workers with too few or outdated skills.

Over the past decade, the government has created and abolished training quangos with great energy but little visible result. The most encouraging change has been the recognition that employers should be more involved. The only measure of the success of a training scheme is that it equips as many trainees as possible with the skills needed to find a good job. Employers are uniquely qualified to determine what those skills should be. But if they are to run local training schemes, through the new TECs, they should be trusted to assess what skill shortages need to be addressed in their area, not forced to spend earmarked money on earmarked schemes.

Mr Howard can thus prove his commitment to training in two ways. He can give TECs the flexibility they deserve; and he can persuade the Treasury of the political and economic importance of a better-trained workforce.

Crucial test of fuel resources

From Dr Hari Sharan

Sir, Putting population growth as the prime cause of the world's current ills (letters, July 30, August 7) ignores the fact that even if the total population of the South (where the maximum growth rates exist) had remained static at the 1950 level, the state of this planet would not now be any better. Less than 20 per cent of the world population has steadily consumed over 80 per cent of the world's resources for the last hundred years or more and continues to burn immense quantities of fossil fuels for the sustenance of an irresponsibly wasteful lifestyle.

Without in any way contesting the dire need for the control of population in the South, I contend that a 25 per cent reduction in per capita energy consumption in the North will have a much faster impact on slowing down the catastrophic environmental slide than a 25 per cent reduction in the average population growth rate of the South. Even under the most favourable conditions, that would take more than a generation to produce any measurable effect.

This is especially true as energy conservation can be effected without extreme consequences by a conscious act of political will and foresight. Indeed the most recent oil shock may leave the politicians with no alternative.

Yours faithfully,
HARI SHARAN,
Seebachstrasse 27,
CH-8472 Seuzach, Switzerland.
August 8.

From Mr Alan Lewis

Sir, In order to allow the country as a whole to cope with the enormous escalation in petrol prices, and in view of the looming recession, should not the Government take the obvious step of reducing drastically the duty on petrol? It would certainly keep inflation down and can always be adjusted when things return to normal, if they ever do.

Public transport, particularly the British Rail service, is so chaotic that the use of motor vehicles is no longer a luxury, but an essential. The increased cost of petrol would be one more nail in our economic coffin.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN LEWIS,
Grendon House,
7A Bayham Street, NW1.
August 7.

From Mr Robert Guy Ramsay

Sir, I think the petrol companies should be commanded for the quick, yet miraculous, response to the current problems in the Middle East. Only yesterday I was able to buy some new "post-crisis petrol" which I believe was at the time not even in Britain, let alone my local garage. It will arrive next month and then be processed and delivered.

Is that a gulf in my understanding of economics or some new "Gulf tax", payable in advance (of necessity)?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RAMSAY,
11a The Rise,
Ponteland, Northumberland.
August 7.

From Mr Reg Egford

Sir, Your August 4 report speaks

of 1909 as a year of sunshine, unbroken except by 1989 and 1990. Yet W. H. Hudson, in chapter 1 of his *Shepherd's Life*,

suggested a figure of "over 95°F"

Five days are not so many even in the season when they are looked for — they have certainly been few during this wet and uncomfortable year of 1909.

Yours faithfully,
REG EGFORD,
43 Richmond Road,
Caversham Heights,
Reading, Berkshire.
August 6.

From Mr Brian Pippard

FRS

Sir, Alan Franks tells us (article, August 4) that "chaos theory threatens to reduce to futility" the whole field of meteorology, and goes on to suggest that all "predictions . . . about global warming must be rendered meaningless". This is a mischievous extrapolation from one simple mathematical model.

It may indeed be impossible to predict whether I shall have a fine day for my birthday party next month, but that does not make me doubt that as Christmas approaches the mean temperature will drop considerably below its present value.

There are some aspects of the weather, as of political and economic phenomena, for which a week is a long time; there are others for which one may make confident predictions over a much longer span.

One of the tasks facing students of complex chaotic systems, meteorological or social, is to discover the range of predictability in each case, and this is not easy

matter. Furthermore, we must be prepared to find that some of the things we should dearly love to know for certain (like movements of the stock market) have, to use the technical term, a "horizon of predictability" so near at hand as to give science no advantage over intuition. But failure in matters of detail should not lead us to disregard expert warnings of generalized trouble ahead, whether of global recession or global heating; though we should like the experts to investigate fully, through chaosology or other studies, the reliability of their long-term forecasts, and to tell us.

Realization of the prevalence of chaos is salutary and must not be taken as a sign of failure. If, as Sir Peter Medawar used to remind us, quoted Bacon, science is "the effecting of all things possible", it is a good thing to understand which things are impossible, and will remain impossible.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN PIPPARD,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Physics,
Cavendish Laboratory,
Madingley Road, Cambridge.

Barbican closure

From the General Manager of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Sir, It would be piquant if "the RSC had failed to tell the new Barbican director, Della O'Cathain, of their decision to close the (Barbican) theatres before they announced it to the press" (Arts, August 6); but it isn't true.

The decision was taken on January 29 in the presence of an official representative of the Corporation of the City of London, who immediately reported to Della; she and I met for a full briefing on January 31 and the press announcement was on February 8.

I'm sorry to spoil the fun.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BRIERLEY,
General Manager,
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire.

Yours faithfully,

MARY CLARKSON,
Ferry Cottage,
44 Ferry Road, Oxford.

August 7.

Sisterly support

From the Mayor of Lewes, Delaware, and others

Sir, There are many links, historical and personal, between the towns of Lewes, Delaware and Lewes, Sussex. We cherish the naval shot from the War of 1812-14, embedded in the foundations of the Cannonball House; they

cherish the connection of Tom Paine with the Bull Inn.

In common, therefore, with many of our fellow citizens, we are saddened to hear of the latest threat to the integrity of our sister town, The Southdown Bus Company, it seems, has recently been acquired by a holding company, Stagecoach Holdings, which, having thus gained control of the bus depot, proposes to sell it off for commercial development.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Setting the heat record straight

From Mr Michael W. Rowe

Sir, Great interest has been shown in the British record temperature of 37.1°C (98.8°F) at Cheltenham on Friday, August 3, and since many authoritative works quote higher figures than this as having been observed in Britain it seems desirable to set the record straight.

For many years the Meteorological Office accepted the reading of 100.5°F (38.1°C) at Tonbridge, Kent, on July 22, 1868, as the highest temperature ever observed in Britain (I quote all temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit first from now on, since all the readings were taken using that scale). This figure has now been discredited, and it is difficult to

(35°C) in south-east England in 1868 (the date of the Tonbridge reading), 1823, 1808 and 1757. All these heatwaves were in July, the most famous being in 1808 when, on "Hot Wednesday", July 13, a considerable number of animals, and apparently some field workers, died of the heat.

Dr C. E. P. Brooks, in *The English Climate* (1954), considered that the temperature on that day "probably equalled if it did not exceed the 100°F reached at Greenwich on August 9, 1911" (a record that is not now accepted). 96°F (35.6°C) was reported from Plaistow, London, and 99°F (37.2°C) from Suffolk, but the Stevenson screen had not yet been invented the thermometers in question must almost certainly have been reading to high.

Lastly, there are "Hot Tuesday" and "Dry Wednesday". The former was on July 8, 1707 (July 19 by the modern calendar); as in 1808, field workers and animals died of the heat. The only reference I have to "Dry Wednesday" dates it July 21, 1513, but that was a Thursday!

Yours faithfully,
M. W. ROWE,
21 Bankview,
Lymington, Hampshire.
August 6.

From Mr Gavin Littaur

Sir, It is claimed (report, August 4) that Britain's best summer on record" was in 1976, when temperatures of 89.8°F were recorded on 13 consecutive days. However, the atmosphere at 90°F is stuffy, soporific and generally unhealthy.

It was tough going yesterday afternoon, running 300 metres nine times on our local track. Cool air would have been more than welcome and is, I suggest, a considerably underrated phenomenon in this country.

GAVIN LITTAUR,
24 Stormont Road, N6.
August 4.

From Mr Reg Egford

Sir, Your August 4 report speaks of 1909 as a year of sunshine, unbroken except by 1989 and 1990. Yet W. H. Hudson, in chapter 1 of his *Shepherd's Life*,

says,

Five days are not so many even in the season when they are looked for — they have certainly been few during this wet and uncomfortable year of 1909.

Yours faithfully,

REG EGFORD,
43 Richmond Road,
Caversham Heights,
Reading, Berkshire.
August 6.

Other side of a Liverpool coin

From Mr David Mowat

Sir, Mr Kevan Coombes's letter (August 6) typifies the deep-rooted "xenophobia" of Liverpudians and their conviction that all their problems are caused by outsiders. He blames "the disappearance of a locally-controlled private sector", when perhaps the largest privately-owned company in the UK (Littlewoods) has its head office five minutes walk from the town hall. Royal, one of the UK's largest insurance companies, is as close.

In fact the majority of Liverpudians work for local companies. If these firms have offices in London and abroad this should be a matter of pride.

This leads us to the second obsession — that Liverpudians will only work for a boss from the same city. That's a fine basis for attracting private-sector investment!

Then there's the need for "public resources aimed at benefiting the private sector". They are doing and have been doing that for years, with investment to regenerate the derelict docklands of £140 million to date. Why he wants "to wait for a Labour Government" is unclear: they showed no interest in redeveloping the area during their last period of office. I stood beside a Labour Department of Industry minister, who gazed at the Albert Dock and said: "Everyone tells me it's beautiful; to me it's just a dump". Well, today it is beautiful again.



COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA
August 8: The Queen visited Wiltshire today and was received at Pewsey Station by Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

The Queen drove to Devizes Leisure Centre at Devizes School (Headmaster, Mr Colin Isled) where Her Majesty opened the new swimming pool, unveiled a commemorative plaque and attended a service, escorted by the Chairman of Kennet District Council (Councillor Geoffrey Taylor).

Afterwards The Queen visited Wharfside and was received by Mr David Ingham (Chairman of British Waterways) and the Earl Jellicoe (President of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust).

Her Majesty subsequently embarked in the barge of Hungerford at the British Waterways Depot at Caen Hill and formally reopened the Kennet and Avon Canal before disembarking and unveiling a commemorative plaque.

Later The Queen visited the Garrison Church at Larkhill and was received by General Sir Martin Farndale (Master Gunner and Major General B T Pennington (Director Royal Artillery).

Her Majesty honoured the Master Gunner with her presence at lunch and afterwards attended a service in the Garrison Church during which Her Majesty unveiled a Memorial to the Members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died on Active Service between the years 1945 and 1967.

The Reverend James Harkness (Chaplain General), Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

A.D. anniversaries
BIRTHS: Henry V, reigned 1413-22; Monmouth, 1387; Isaac Walton, angler, Staffed 1563; Thomas Teibord, road, bridge and canal builder, Westerkirk, Dumfries, 1757; Jean Paquet, child psychologist, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1896; Philip Larkin, poet, Coventry, 1922.
DEATHS: Maarten Tromp, Dutch admiral, killed in an engagement with the British, 1653; Frederick Marryat, novelist, Langham, Norfolk, 1848; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Golse, Norway, 1899; Ruggiero Leoncavallo, composer, Monte carlo, Italy, 1919; Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist, Montagnola, Switzerland, 1962; Dmitry Shostakovich, composer, Moscow, 1975.
An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki by the USA. 1945. Gerald Ford became the 37th President of the USA, 1974.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Blunt
and Miss E.T.H. Armes
The engagement is announced between Gerald, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael H. Blunt of Wellington, New Zealand, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Armes, of Hurstypoint, Sussex.

Mr N.L. Eickersteth
and Miss C. Chassepoel
Mr Niall L. Bickersteth and Miss Catherine Chassepoel, of 48 bis, Rue Bobillot, 75013 Paris, announce that their wedding will take place on October 6, 1990, at Brechmont, Touraine, France.

Mr J.M. Castle
and Miss N.J.G. Parkinson
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Castle, of Epsom, Surrey, and Nicola, only daughter of Group Captain and Mrs J.S. Parkinson of Ainsdale, Southport.

Dr S.A. Chandaria
and Miss R.S. Dassgopal
The engagement is announced between Suresh, son of Mr and Mrs Anil Chandaria, and Komina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Shekaw Dassgopal.

Mr C.G. Ellis
and Miss J.V.A. Whifield
The engagement is announced between Christopher Graham, second son of Mr John Ellis, of Epsom, and of Mrs Christine Ellis, of Chiswick, London, W.4, and Jane Victoria Annabel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G.P. Whifield, of Headley Wood Farm, Headley, Hampshire.

Mr A. Hallack
and Miss S. Cudliffe-Steele
The engagement is announced between Adam, only son of Eric and Jenny Hurd, of Kew, Kew, Richmond, and Svea, eldest daughter of Phil and Tess Cudliffe-Steele.

Mr N.N. Kulukundis
and Miss L.J.B. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Miles Kulukundis, of Chelsea, London, and Louise, daughter of Captain Mark Phillips, of Totspash, Devonshire, and Mrs Dennis Stewart, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

Mr D.J. Mackay
and Miss A.M. Hall
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Mackay, of Tunbridge Wells, and Abigail, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hall, of Upton, Norfolk.

Mr A.G. Miller
and Miss C.R. Lawrence
The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr M.T. Mallen, of Jarrold and the late Mr T. Mallen, and Ruth, youngest daughter of the Rev D. and Mrs Lawrence, of Clarence Drive, Huddersfield.

Institution of Water and Environmental Management

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management: The Right Hon The Lord Crickhowell, Chairman, National Rivers Authority; Professor The Lord Lewis of Newham, FRS, Chairman, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; Sir Hugh Rossi, MP, Chairman, House of Commons Environment Committee; Sir Gordon Jones, Chairman, Yorkshire Water PLC; Sir Michael Straker, Chairman, Northumbrian Water Group PLC; Mr I.C.R. Bryant, Director General, Office of Water Services and Mr J. Murray, Permanent Secretary, Department of Environment for Northern Ireland.

OBITUARIES

GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, who commanded the United States 6th Marine Division in the battle for Okinawa in 1945, died in La Jolla, California, on August 6. He was 94.

THE battle for Okinawa which raged for three months in the spring and summer of 1945, was one of the bloodiest of the Pacific war, and for most of the time the US 6th marine division led by Lemuel Shepherd was in the thick of the fighting. The Americans were never under any illusions that Okinawa was going to be a tough nut to crack. Ruggedly hilly and heavily forested, it provided a terrain ideal for defenders to exact heavy casualties from the invaders. Nevertheless the rationale behind the decision to attack it, even after the sanguinary experience of Iwo-Jima, was based on a perception of its strategic importance. The largest island of the Ryukyu chain, 60 miles long and eight miles wide, it provided the only practical military and naval base for the invasion of Japan, 340 miles away, while an air force operating from it would be able to dominate Japanese-held parts of China as well as Japan itself. American intelligence estimated that Okinawa was held by almost 100,000 Japanese troops who constituted the 32nd Army of General Ushijima.

D-Day for the landings was set for April 1, and after a fortnight of massive bombing raids to neutralise the Japanese air threat, the first of 170,000 US combat troops got ashore on a five mile front. Resistance was almost negligible and the Americans were astonished to be able to seize two airfields and apparently advance at will. Sixty thousand men had been put ashore by evening with almost no casualties.

This success and the begui-



ing sense of easy victory were illusory. As the Americans pushed inland and resistance stiffened they realised they had walked into a massive ambush from Japanese forces strongly dug into the limestone ridges which formed the backbone of the island. From there they were able to direct a murderous fire from their skillfully handled light artillery onto the attackers.

As with Iwo-Jima, the Okinawa campaign swiftly developed into a nightmare, which was compounded for the covering naval forces by blan-

ket attacks from kamikaze planes. Shepherd and his 6th Marine Division struck northward against Japanese troops holed up in a formidable defensive position in the rocky and forest-covered Mountabu peninsula. By his clever infiltration tactics, however, Shepherd was able to encompass their surrender without the internecine carnage which characterised the campaign elsewhere. Indeed his losses were only a tenth of those of the Japanese, a proportion not reflected in the fighting for Okinawa as a

whole. But the 6th's effort was not yet over. With Japanese resistance in the south of the island requiring the straining of every nerve to overcome it, Shepherd's division now joined the general advance in that direction which was making little headway against the Japanese who were able to fire against it from deep caves in the hills. Had the Japanese persisted with defensive tactics action might have been even more prolonged. But such a course was not in keeping with the Bushido warrior psychology which characterised Japanese thinking. In May their commanders decided on a counter-offensive which the Americans repulsed with heavy losses. Striking southwards with great speed, Shepherd's division eventually captured Naha, Okinawa's capital, after 82 days in combat. Japanese resistance finally came to an end in early July, with Ushijima and his entire staff committing hara-kiri.

Shepherd, who was born in Norfolk, Virginia, had been a combat veteran of the first world war. He had even graduated from the Virginia Military Institute a year early in 1917, so that he could see service in France when the United States entered the war. He was decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French for his bravery at Belleau Wood, and took part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive which forced the Germans back to the Aisne after tough fighting. Between the wars he had worked as a junior aide to President Harding and later served in Haiti. His last act in the second world war was to receive the surrender of Japanese forces at Tsingtao, China. He finally rose to become commandant of the US Marine Corps in 1952, and was the first marine to serve on the joint chiefs of staff committee.

GORDON BUNSHAFT

Gordon Bunshaft, American architect, who helped shape New York's corporate skyline, died in that city aged 81 on August 6. He was born on May 9, 1909.

GORDON Bunshaft was one of the most prolific and successful modern architects in the United States but one whose name was not as widely known as his achievements deserved because all his buildings were publicly attributed to the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. This was the firm founded in Chicago in 1935 by the three architects, whose name it retained long after they had died, or retired, and which became one of the largest and best known in America with offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco and among the most highly respected for the quality of its work.

Its reputation was largely due to the standard set by Bunshaft, who became chief designer in the firm's New York office in 1937. Among the buildings for which he was responsible was Lever House in Park Avenue, New York.

His eye for stylish design was supplemented by an active interest in the other arts, which he was always eager to incorporate in his buildings.

Mr G.H.N. Prestige
and Miss E. Rose

The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Colonel and Mrs Adrienne Prestige, of Amesbury, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Alastair Rose, of Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Mr S.W.G. Rawlings
and Miss D. Hill

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr Richard Rawlings, of Blackham, and Mrs Judy Rawlings, of Chechester, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Hill, of Gurney Slade, Somerset.

Mr C.K. Turner
and Miss V.G.M. Palmer

The engagement is announced between Keith, elder son of Dr and Mrs C.G. Turner, of Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.W. Palmer, of Coventry.

Mr N.R. Van Gruisen
and Miss L.P.L. Hawthorne

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mrs Anne Van Gruisen, of London, and Mr Michael Van Gruisen, of Edinburgh, and stepson of Mrs Michael Van Gruisen, and Iris, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Birt, of Dorchester, Dorset.

Mr S.J. Whittaker
and Miss J.E. Finch

The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Whittaker, of St. Marcellus, Tiverton, Devon, and Judith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Finch, of Salsbury, Wiltshire.

Marriage

Mr L.H.N. Tedder
and Miss N.A. Kitson

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 4, at St Swithun's Church, Bathford, of Mrs. and Mr. G. Sykes, Syke, and Nicolia, younger daughter of Mr. A.L. Mellor, of Bath, and Mr. D.J. Kitson, of Bristol.

The bride was attended by Miss Deborah Kitson, Miss Jennifer Kitson, Holly Mitchell and Master Tom Stokes. Mr Grant Nicholas was best man. The bride was given away by her brother Dr Jeremy Kitson.

The reception was held at the Bath Lodge Hotel.

He preached his first sermon in Welsh at Christmas three years ago. "But when I look at the script now I blush to think what the Betheda congregation felt."

Today he said he preferred to lead worship in Welsh – it had added much to his spiritual life. Mr Gillibrand, who comes from Eccles with his family and wanted to stay in Wales. When he spoke to his bishop five years ago he recommended that to join the priesthood he must learn Welsh.

Throughout the week influential leaders of the Welsh community, the arch druid, Mr William George, Judge Watkin Powell and the archbishop have stressed the importance of presenting a

whole. But the 6th's effort was not yet over. With Japanese resistance in the south of the island requiring the straining of every nerve to overcome it, Shepherd's division now joined the general advance in that direction which was making little headway against the Japanese who were able to fire against it from deep caves in the hills. Had the Japanese persisted with defensive tactics action might have been even more prolonged. But such a course was not in keeping with the Bushido warrior psychology which characterised Japanese thinking. In May their commanders decided on a counter-offensive which the Americans repulsed with heavy losses. Striking southwards with great speed, Shepherd's division eventually captured Naha, Okinawa's capital, after 82 days in combat. Japanese resistance finally came to an end in early July, with Ushijima and his entire staff committing hara-kiri.

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Immediately after 1945

GEBHARD MÜLLER

Gebhard Müller, prime minister of Baden-Württemberg from 1953-59 and president of the West German Federal Constitutional Court from 1959-1971, died in Stuttgart at the age of 90 on August 7. He was born on April 17, 1900.

A CATHOLIC lawyer who stood firmly against the Nazi authorities before the second world war, Gebhard Müller played a major role in the creation of the state of Baden-Württemberg in 1952 and went on as head of the country's ultimate legal authority to interpret and strengthen the federal Basic Law, the foundation stone of West German democracy.

Born into the large family of a Swabian teacher, Müller grew up absorbing the locally much-prized virtues of hard work and thrift, which were a hallmark of his later life. After brief military service at the end of the first world war, he became a student of theology and then law in Berlin, where he came under the influence of Carl Sonnenschein, the social reformer. Once qualified, he began practising in Rotenburg, south of Würzburg, at the same time becoming active in the Centre Party there. Unlike many of his colleagues he held true to his pure interpretation of the law despite pressure from the Nazi authorities. Working in Göppingen, near Stuttgart, at the time of the Kristallnacht in 1938, he drew up a report on the burning down of the synagogue there, urging that charges be pressed for breach of the peace and arson. He was promptly transferred and given a minor job in the army.

Immediately after 1945

THE REV RALPH HOUGHTON

The Rev Ralph Houghton, Emeritus Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, died aged 93 on August 6. He was born on August 18, 1896.

RALPH Edward Cundiff Houghton was one of the four founding senior members of what became St Peter's College, Oxford, and his influence on its early history was constant. He was teaching classics at Westminster School when, in 1928, his chance came to take part in the founding of a new Oxford College. The Rev Christopher Chavasse, future Master of St Peter's (1963), later to become Bishop of Rochester, was opening a small hostel for non-collegiate students known as St Peter's House. This was intended to form a nucleus for St Peter's Hall, which started life as a permanent private hall in 1929. Houghton had joined Chavasse when it was still uncertain whether the university would sanction the project. Chavasse looked after the building scheme and the raising of funds; Houghton's task was to plan all the tutorial arrangements.

Lewis Mumford once praised the Pepsi-Cola Building as "an impeccable achievement. It says all that can be said delicately, accurately, elegantly with surfaces of glass." His architecture brought him many awards including the Pritzker Prize in 1988. Bunshaft's interest in the arts was reflected in his membership of the US President's Commission on the Fine Arts and by his appointment as a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In 1943 he married Nina Elizabeth Wayler who survives him.

In addition to Lever House, other notable buildings for whose design he was responsible included the Pepsi-Cola Building (1959) and the Union Carbide Building (1961), both in New York, the Rare Books and Manuscript Library at Yale University (1963), the Hilton Hotel, Istanbul (1955), a group of buildings for the University of Texas (1971) and airport buildings at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (1975).

He became the first senior tutor of St Peter's Hall, and held that post until the outbreak of the second world war upset the normal life of the university. Rector of Hanborough from 1940 to 1945, though coming into Oxford regularly to teach his pupils, Houghton

Müller was recruited by the French military government to help re-establish a legal system in the old state of Württemberg-Hohenzollern, rapidly being appointed as ministerial director in the justice department in Tübingen and deputy justice minister.

Resuming his political activities, Müller became one of the founders of the Christian Democrats (CDU) and was chosen as prime minister of Württemberg-Hohenzollern in 1948. With the borders of the German länder being redrawn, he decided that there should be a merger of the three states in the south west to form Baden-Württemberg. With other like-minded politicians, he formed an alliance against both the French occupying power and Konrad Adenauer to argue successfully for the new large state, which came into being in 1952.

The following year, as leader of the strongest party in the state parliament, Müller headed an all-party coalition government which set about the task of harmonising the legislation of the three former states to create a sound basis for the new one. In 1959, when asked for the third time in his career to become president of the Constitutional Court, he accepted.

His unspectacular, but essential, role was to ensure that the Basic Law developed into a solid, viable basis for a democracy. His success is clear from the fact that the Basic Law, with only very minor modifications, is to be adopted as the constitution of a united Germany.

Killing of protected birds mars grouse moor management

By JOHN YOUNG

GROUSE moor managers are deliberately killing hen harriers, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, Ian Press, director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), says in a statement issued today. The grouse season opens on Monday, since this year the Glorious Twelfth falls on a Sunday.

"Hen harriers suffer this persecution because they eat and disturb grouse, but they need not necessarily affect grouse numbers," Mr Press says. "Some moorland owners run well managed moors with good grouse shoots which also support harriers. Others should follow their example and not resort to illegal persecution."

This year, the society has received 17 reports of nests destroyed or birds killed in Scotland and Wales and one bird poisoned in England. Last year, a nest on an RSPB reserve was destroyed by being stamped on and 32 incidents of hen harrier

strongly opposes the illegal killing of protected birds of prey. Its studies suggest that although a single pair of harriers can take up to 250 grouse chicks, the impact is unlikely to be significant on moors with large grouse populations which are the only ones where shooting is economically viable.

The conservancy is more concerned at the cyclical problem of disease, and by the loss of heather moorland caused by the overgrazing of sheep and by the spread of bracken and grasses. It recently launched a project with Strathclyde University to examine ways of using herbicides to combat the spread of grasses.

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Nature's way of helping you to slow down?

The popularity of herbal remedies to cope with stress has boomed during the past two years. But how safe are they? Victoria McKee investigates

Herbal remedies have been used to counteract life's stresses for more than 4,000 years, and many have been readily obtainable from British chemists and health food shops for the past 50 or 60. Only recently have they been so slickly packaged and promoted, in what the stress expert Professor Cary Cooper calls "a sad sign of the times" but others, such as Larry Neild, founder of the counselling agency Tranxline, hail as a welcome weaning away from synthetic tranquillisers.

Herbal and homoeopathic concoctions such as Natracalm, Calm Life, and SuNerve, some a mixture of herbs and vitamins, promise relief from nervous tension, worry, irritability and "the stress and strain of everyday life".

Those with product licence (PL) numbers have been licensed under the Medicines Act of 1968 and are being reviewed by the Committee for the Review of Medicines, set up in 1975, which is due to complete its study by the autumn.

Professor William Asscher, chairman of the Committee for the Safety of Medicines and former chairman of the Committee for the Review of Medicines, says: "If they have a licence, and you can tell if they do from the PL numbers on the bottles, they are not known to be dangerous. But the 39,065 products already on the market when the Medicines Act became active in 1969 were granted a licence as of right."

Licensed products must meet standards of "quality, safety and efficiency". Professor Asscher says: "But it was said that if the product was to be used for a minor, self-regulating condition the committee was prepared to accept anecdotal evidence of efficacy, to be reviewed by May 1990, a deadline which has now stretched to November."

But stress is "certainly not minor – a lot of stress-related diseases are major," Professor Asscher says. "But I suppose to some extent it is self-regulating. These preparations should say, 'If you don't get better in so many days, see your doctor', but it's very difficult to police these things."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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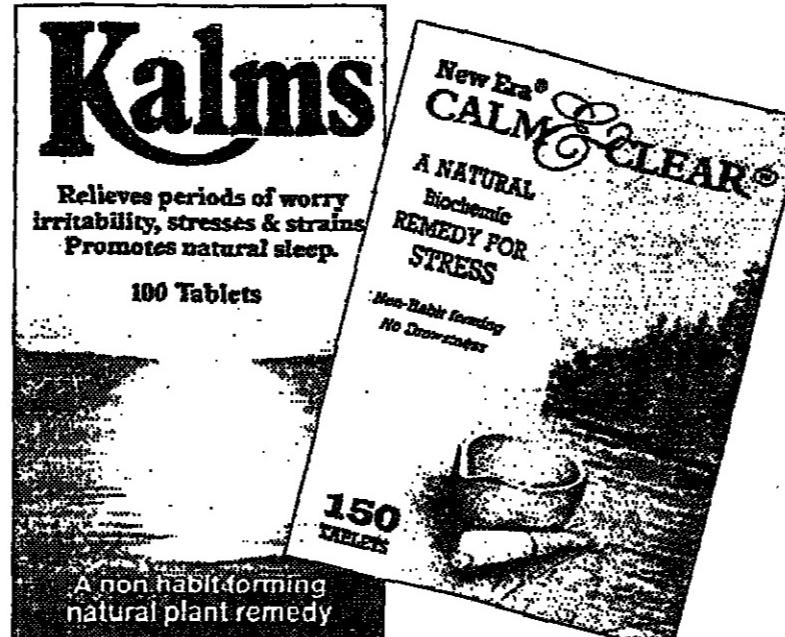
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COPING WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY

NATRACALM

minutes later. But they should be looking instead at their lifestyle and diet." He warns that results could be "disastrous" if people switched abruptly from addictive drugs to herbal tranquillisers. "Deep abdominal breathing is the best method of stress-relief I know, and a lot of the answer is dietary."

He recommends "a good cup of camomile tea for relaxing". Camomile is an ingredient in herbal tranquillisers such as Jessop Marketing's Calm Life, formerly Tranquillizer: a "traditional herbal remedy for the symptomatic relief of restlessness and irritability". It also contains valeren and dry extract of skullcap, herbs that had doubts cast on them in an article in the *British Medical Journal* last year.

Four women, three of whom had taken Kalms and one Neurelax, began to suffer from jaundice. The authors, five doctors (two from Tyneside, three from Scotland), suggested that "skullcap and valeren are the most likely hepatotoxic components" and pointed out that Kalms tablets contained skullcap as well as valeren

before 1984, although the formulation has since changed.

The doctors said identifying toxic components in herbal medicines was a problem because the medicines contained multiple ingredients, some of the components were possibly not pure, and not all components were listed or even known.

Lesley Bremness, author of *The World of Herbs* (Ebury Press), says: "It was more likely to have been some chemical in the water used that did it than the herbs." She feels that "the medical profession will pick up on the last criticism of herbal remedies".

Mr Neild says: "Valeren is infinitely better than Valium." Ms Bremness says: "At least these things are non-addictive." Professor Asscher says: "We are well aware of placebo effects, and they are not to be sneezed at."

Professor Cooper, author of several books on stress, says: "People who take the trouble to buy these things may unconsciously start making other efforts to take better care of themselves at the same time. So they could seem effective because of that."

Which? magazine looked at the rules governing herbal remedies last month. The government's Medicines Control Agency has rejected names "which imply that the remedy might be suitable for treating serious conditions". It insisted that a product called Insomnia and Nervous Tension Remedy had to be renamed.

The Consumers' Association welcomed the MCA's tough stance, and criticised the lack of on-pack guidance about the length of time over which the remedies could be taken.

Maurice Hansen, chairman of the Natural Medicine Society and a campaigner for the continued freedom to sell – and buy – natural medicines and dietary supplements, is fighting proposed EC regulations that would tighten up the market. "The Common Market is asking whether these products are needed. I say, can you define a need for Belgian chocolates?"

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Putting Down's to test

in one day rather than three weeks. The manufacturers recommend that this test should still be used in combination with traditional chromosome analysis.

Down's syndrome is the result of a baby having three, rather than two, copies of chromosome 21; an abnormality that occurs in one in 800 pregnancies in younger women, one in 100 by the time the woman is 40 and one in about 40 by the time she is 45.

The Gaithersburg test relies on genetic probes, which attach themselves to the chromosome under examination.

The probes show up as flu-

orescent spots under a microscope, so that the number of copies of chromosome 21 can be counted. If two are present all is well; if there are three, the baby has Down's syndrome.

American scientists have no monopoly in this research. Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, formerly of Glasgow and now at Cambridge University, has been working on chromosome painting since the 1970s, and is using tests similar to those marketed by Encor in his research at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Professor Ferguson-Smith adds a note of caution: "It is a complicated technique with many stages, at any of which something can go wrong. When it works, it enables the doctor to give the mother a preliminary report, but the test still has to be used in conjunction with traditional chromosomal analysis."

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Dangers of a kitchen cat

MARY PAUL, aged 79, of Weston, near Bath, died after suffering an unprovoked attack from her neighbour's tom cat, BJ. The wounds the neutered tom inflicted on her arms and legs were so bad that she had to be admitted to hospital for skin grafting. While in hospital she developed a fatal pulmonary embolism (a clot that blocks an important blood vessel in the lung).

Cat lovers explain that however unfortunate BJ's behaviour was, the death was not due directly to the cat, but rather to Mrs Paul's enforced immobilisation, which allowed the clot that formed in her leg to migrate to the lung. The cat's aggression was puzzling, as after castration and reduction in testosterone levels tom cats are expected to lie purring by the fireside.

Apart from the obvious dangers of cats spreading salmonella and other forms of food poisoning, or smothering babies as they seek the warmth of a pram, they can cause disaster in more specific ways. They spread the mysterious illness cat scratch fever, they transmit toxoplasmosis, and are a frequent cause of asthma and other allergies, so much so that Professor Tom Plant-Mills recently called for cats, as well as carpets, to be washed regularly.

The organism responsible for cat scratch fever has never been isolated, but a few days after a cat scratch a pustule develops at the site. Within two weeks, the lymphatic glands filtering the area have become swollen and painful and may later break down and thereafter they persistently discharge pus. Meanwhile, the patient feels wretched, has a severe headache, runny eyes and a high temperature. In the worst cases, encephalitis complicates the outcome. Tetracycline is prescribed, but surgery to remove infected glands may be necessary.

Toxoplasmosis is caused by a small parasite, which spends a crucial part of its life cycle in a cat's gut, from where it is spread, via faeces, to other animals, including humans. In adults, it causes no more than a glandular fever-type disease, but if caught by a pregnant woman (and always provided that it doesn't precipitate a miscarriage) there is a 35 per cent chance of the baby being affected, with danger of blindness and mental retardation. Infection in small children can also lead to retinal damage. As a rule, neutered toms are more likely to be a danger to life in the kitchen or nursery than the back alley.

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THE JOB

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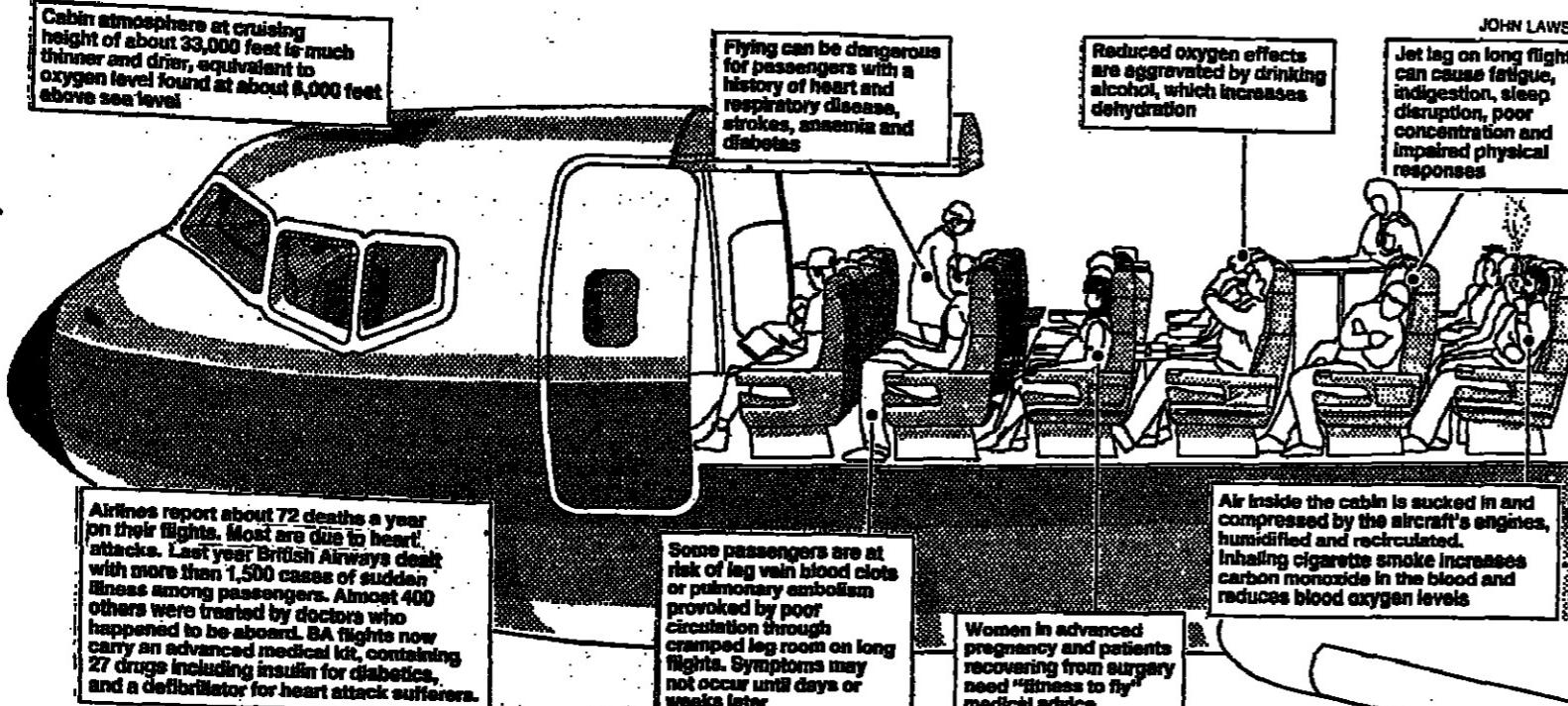
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A sickness in the skies



For many people, air travel can induce a host of maladies, from jet lag to fatal heart attacks, Thomson Prentice reports

Author calls for comprehensive research into health risks in air travel.

The idea of hurtling at 500mph or more six miles above the ground in a pressurised metal tube causes little anxiety in most of the millions of people who fly every year.

The lack of fear is well founded. Civil aviation has proved itself, statistically, to be the safest of all forms of transport. But apart from the risks of disaster due to mechanical failure or human error, dangers still lurk for many passengers.

For those with illnesses such as heart and respiratory disease, anaemia, gastro-intestinal complaints and diabetes, and for women in advanced pregnancy and patients recovering from surgery, a flight can be laden with problems.

In addition, the symptoms of jet lag, including fatigue, indigestion, sleep pattern disruption, impaired physical responses and lack of concentration, produce a hangover effect lasting days and even weeks for many otherwise healthy travellers.

Many of the problems are discussed in a new book, *The Curse Of Icarus*, by P.S. Kahn (Routledge, £19.99) to be published next Thursday. The

circulated with added humidification. Even so, it is thinner, drier, and according to some experts, more contaminated than the normal atmosphere.

Alistair MacMillan, of the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, says the standard aircraft ventilation system employs filters that are no more sophisticated than the filter tip of a cigarette.

"There is no active removal of the chemicals in the air inside an aircraft. It is simply humidified and recirculated. There is considerable debate about how useful filters are in screening out cigarette smoke."

Breathing in cigarette fumes on an aircraft significantly increases the blood saturation of carbon monoxide, reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood. "That would aggravate circulatory and respiratory disorders," Dr MacMillan says.

Concern about the effects of passive smoking, the involuntary inhalation of cigarette smoke by non-smokers, is the chief reason for the campaign by the World Health Organisation and the British Medical Association to have smoking banned from all flights.

Martin Jarvis, a senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, says cigarettes produce up to 4,000 chemicals, of which 60 are carcinogenic. A recent study involving non-smoking passengers and flight attendants in the United States showed that they had measurable levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, in their urine after a four-hour flight on which some passengers smoked.

Irritation of the eyes, nose and throat were also reported by the volunteers who took part in the study.

Hypoxia, or lack of oxygen, has an impact not only on smokers, but drinkers, because alcohol enhances and mimics the condition through dehydration. People who are tired or who have severe head colds, may also be affected. The problem is compounded by sitting for hours in the cramped conditions of a crowded aircraft, with little exercise for the lungs.

The airline was acting on the evidence of the previous year, when its cabin attendants dealt with 1,540 cases of sudden illness among passengers, and doctors who happened to be aboard came to the aid of 397 travellers.

In the United States, the flying regulations are less comprehensive. "The airlines remain dependent on good samaritan health professionals, who are asked to come forward in the event of an emergency," the authors of the *JAMA* study reported.

doctors said. Flights as short as three to four hours could be potentially dangerous, but the symptoms might not manifest themselves until days or even weeks after the journey.

Even relatively young passengers, without a history of cardiovascular disease, could be vulnerable.

About ten of 61 sudden deaths recorded among passengers at Heathrow airport during a three-year period were probably due to a pulmonary embolism, the doctors said.

Some large airlines are taking steps to improve their response to in-flight emergencies. Earlier this year, British Airways introduced a new medical kit, containing 27 drugs, including an aerosol spray for angina sufferers, insulin for diabetics and defibrillators, which can revive heart attack sufferers by delivering a mild electric shock to the heart.

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Nature's cycle is being smoked out

How rainforest fires worsen the greenhouse effect

Widespread burning of tropical rainforests and savannah grassland may be interfering with the Earth's natural nitrogen cycle and causing significant amounts of nitrogen-containing pollutants to be released into the atmosphere, according to a new study.

Such biomass burning is known to contribute to rising levels of carbon dioxide, the prime warming gas, but the report, in *Nature* magazine today, suggests that in the tropics the burning is resulting also in the emission of large amounts of nitrogen-containing gases such as nitric and nitrous oxide.

Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas with a capacity to seal in the Earth's heat, which is 250 times more powerful, molecule for molecule, than that of carbon dioxide. Nitric oxide is no less of an environmental hazard. A highly reactive chemical, it leads to the formation of both ozone pollution and nitric acid, a prime component of acid rain.

Some estimates suggest that the burning of tropical rainforests may contribute up to 20 per cent of all emissions of carbon dioxide resulting from human activity, making it the second biggest source after fossil fuel combustion.

Jürgen Löbert and colleagues at the Max Planck Institut in Mainz, West Germany, who carried out the new research, say tropical burning also accounts for about 20 per cent of all emissions of nitrogen oxide gases,

and produces more hydrogen cyanide gas than cars and industry.

The most startling result of the study is that when vegetation burns, as much as 50 per cent of all the nitrogen held within it is emitted in the form of molecular nitrogen, which comprises 78 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere.

The nitrogen cycle is the name given to the process whereby plants soak up nitrogen gas, just as they soak up carbon dioxide, and microorganisms return it to the atmosphere. Living plants and trees, unlike animals, are able to convert stubbornly unreactive atmospheric nitrogen to a chemically useful form.

Recent estimates of the rate of destruction of the rainforests paint a bleak picture. According to some experts, an area equivalent to five times the size of Switzerland is being lost every year.

Many conservation organisations now believe that the best way of stopping the damage, which, if not slowed, will lead to the clearance of all rainforests within 50 years, is to find ways to exploit the inhabitants' resources without threatening their long-term future.

DAVID CONCAR

© Nature Times News Service 1990



Fire down below: a burning rainforest in Ecuador clears land but can cause pollution

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Whilst the post covers all aspects of the role of an Emergency Planning Officer, we are looking for someone to specialise in telecommunications and to continue to develop the organisation of an emergency communications network for the County.

The successful candidate will be expected to take part in an emergency on-call roster which provides continuous cover.

The post attracts an Essential Car User allowance and therefore a full valid driving licence is required. If you feel that you can make a worthwhile contribution in this post, please write to, or telephone, the County Personnel Adviser, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP (tel: (0234) 228288) for an application form and full job description. Informal enquiries to Mr A Laverick, County Emergency Planning Officer Tel: (0234) 228835.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Running wild in the menagerie

Victoria Glendinning on a book about ordinary American lives, and the uncontrollable forces that rage through them

Richard Ford gets compared with Hemingway, on account of his directness, and with Raymond Carver, who was his friend, on account of his subject matter. He writes, carefully and with a simplicity that is not deceptive but extremely difficult to achieve, about powerless, uninformed people and their surroundings, in close-up. He has far more to teach Europeans about ordinary American life and the American psyche than have the flashier East Coast novelists.

The first sentence tells the whole story: "In the fall of 1960, when I was sixteen and my father was for a time not working, my mother met a man named Warren Miller and fell in love with him." Around this bleak situation the book grows. The family lives in Great Falls, Montana, and that summer forest fires rage in the hills on three sides of the town. Joe's father loses his job and, fascinated by the drama of the fires, goes off to join the fire-fighters.

His wife didn't want him to go. The ragging fires are a sustained metaphor for the uncontrollable forces in their lives. Joe's mother is "out of control" in her consuming passion for Miller. Joe's father, who never keeps a job long, "fought circumstances" as well as the fire. Joe himself, like an anxious spy, listens to what his parents say to him, responding with "I understand" or "I know that", not making judgment, realising that in the conflicts raging above his head nobody is protecting him first.

Ford's method is meditative and probing, searching out every nuance with inexhaustible patience. He even records what does not happen: "For a moment I felt the phone was about to start ringing again, felt a current go through the lines of the house, as if the lines were part of me, alive and surging with a message. But it didn't ring, and the feeling in me died out."

He keeps his cast of characters small; in this book, only Joe and his parents are properly in focus. Miller, a limping, lumbering man of no apparent attraction, is physically real to Joe in a way he dislikes, but remains opaque. Miller's house, with its bright, uncurtained windows, is more easily explored than he is. Joe's father, on his return from firefighting, does not attack Miller, he attempts

to set fire to his house. The fire Peters out. Grand gestures have no place in these lives. Upheavals take place only in the heart. "Do you know what happens when the very thing you wanted least to happen happens to you?" Joe's father asks, and answers himself "Nothing at all does."

The family has moved from place to place, they know almost nobody in Great Falls. Joe, in retrospect, acknowledges that he should have had a girlfriend, or "had an idea of some kind". But he cared only about his parents, "and in the time since then I have realised we were not a family who ever cared about much more than that". They are the "wildlife" of the title, endangered by the collation that threatens their family life. In the real fire, a disorientated moose wandered into a town centre, bear was seen running with its fur blazing. These are the strongest images in this story of crisis and displacement, glimpsed indirectly, offstage as in classical drama.

Joe believes love is for ever, "even though sometimes it seemed to recede and leave

no trace at all", and he is proved right in that on the last page his parents drift together again, feeling "that there was something of themselves, something important, that could not live at all in any other way but by their being together, much as they had been before". It is a deeply moral tale. Joe's mother, in the throes of her infatuation, says to her son: "It isn't that you can't say no to somebody else, or somebody's just too good-looking. You can't say no to yourself. It's a lack in you."

The novel is about control. The fires do not reach Great Falls, the marriage is damaged but does not break, love is permanent. This is reassuring, but it is only true within the narrow context of this story.

It is true in that for the kind of people Ford is writing about, risks and recklessness can mostly only be dreams of excursions. But you feel he needs it to be that way – too much. There is something observational and over-tidy in the jigsaw neatness of his writing, his interlocking themes and images, his modest conclusions. *Wildlife* is in itself a beautifully made fire-break against the emotional or intellectual anarchy that makes good writing great. His wildlife is tamed. He is observing his private zoo.

Richard Ford: able to teach us more about ordinary American life than the flashier East Coast novelists



At home with the heart

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Frances Hill

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Virago, £4.99

married to an insufferable barrister. The course of their intrigue forms the main plot line.

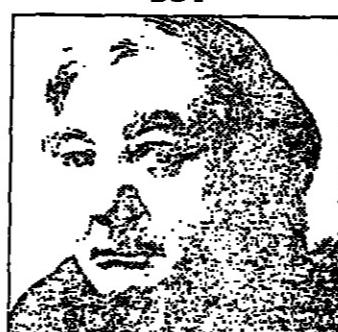
But plot in this novel is largely irrelevant. The real interest lies in

the detailed exploration of character, sharp insights into feelings and motivations and the beautifully conveyed sense of the widespread loss of people's confidence in their roles in life. Hockings' relationship with the ex-nurse creates little excitement or suspense. His wife guesses from the start. He knows she knows. But the affair provides a wealth of insights into relationships and a key scene in which Hockings discovers that true belonging can never be achieved

passion, particularly a near-coupling in the churchyard. However, luckily, these are brief. Hocking knows the human heart very well and is full of wisdom but the comparisons that have been drawn between her and Jane Austen are fanciful. Even comparisons with Barbara Pym seem forced. Hocking has penetration but not wit. And her characters, though faultlessly developed, are interesting because of the psychological insights they allow her to offer, not because they truly live and breathe. However, anyone at home in Austen/Pym territory will find this novel absorbing.

Strife on the ocean waves

Jasper Rees



By James Hanley

Andre Deutsch, £11.99

THE WAR OF DON
EMMANUEL'S
NETHER PARTS
By Louis de Bernieres
Secker & Warburg, £13.95

A ROOMFUL OF
BIRDS: SCOTTISH
SHORT STORIES 1990

Introduction by Deirdre
Chapman

Collins, £12.95

THE TERRIBLE
GIRLS

By Rebecca Brown

Picador, £11.95

ON HIS death in 1985 this newspaper described James Hanley as a "neglected genius". The genius is evident in *Boy*, this week published unexpurgated for the first time since 1934, but then so is the reason for the neglect. Just as Hanley shunned literary company, he shunned literary style. The blunt rhythms of his prose in *Boy*, thumped out in a mere 10 days, are crudely, almost antisocially direct. There is nothing cooked about the novel, nothing artful or schematic: the story of 13-year-old Arthur Fearn, schoolboy turned ship worker turned stowaway turned sailor, is nerve-rackingly vital, and an uncomfortable read.

Hanley wrote *Boy* as an aggressive riposte to the romanticism in maritime fiction. The SS *Hermian*, on which Fearn steals a passage, is discovered and set to work, it is as much a ship of life as a simple sea-going vessel. Victimized at school, pummeled at home by his father and bullied in the docks, the boy runs up against an altogether more demented regime of cruelty on board a ship swilling with puke and shit and booze. He is "interfered with" by crew members, advised by one friendly sailor to give up seafaring and encouraged by another to take a course in amorous practices from an Alexandrian whore. Regrettably, sexual tips are not the only thing he picks up from her, and the cure administered by the ship's captain is a climactically nasty blow.

In his introduction Anthony Burgess suggests that, despite critical effort, Hanley did not fit neatly into an Irish or a Welsh school of literature any more than into an English one. In that, and that only, does he have something in common with Louis de Bernieres, a Briton with a French name who has written a South American first novel. And yet if *The War of Don Emmanuel's Nether Parts*, which is set in a fictional Latin American country, pastiches elements of the local magic realism, it is also shot through with an English rush of farce. The main point, though, is that the novel is on a highly successful mission to entertain.

The conflict of the title erupts

social and ethnic mix, that is. Meanwhile, back in the capital, the city of fascist purges and miscellaneous terror, the octogenarian president unites the nation by invading a deserted ocean rock owned by the British, and keeps his armed forces at bay by setting them against one another.

It is, in short, far too labyrinthine and many-layered a novel to submit to summary, but what should be isolated and applauded is the fact that Mr de Bernieres has the surest of narrative touches, an uplifting sense of the exotic and the sort of easy-going wit which makes even the book's most brutal passages bearable. If his story is only precariously held together, it is presumably a reflection of the country that is his subject.

National identity is an even murkier matter in *A Roomful of Birds*, the 1990 model of Collins's annual selection of Scottish short stories. If there is such a thing as Scottishness in a short story, it is not showing its face in such pieces as those by Elizabeth Burns and William Boyd, both of which deal with surviving as a foreigner in France. Only Douglas Dunn, in an affecting story about a middle-aged dunc, includes dialogue written out phonetically. Michael Cannon hints obliquely at a national characteristic with his story of an Israeli tradesman who loses money when business flags in Jerusalem at the time of the Crucifixion.

Rebecca Brown's *The Children's Crusade* appealed to many, but its successor, a dense collection of short stories about sapphic miscommunication and betrayal, seems to miss the mark. The salient feature of *The Terrible Girls* is that its narrator addresses a listener, dramatic monologue style, in the second person. This is a narrative mannerism which can sound racy and locomotive (witness Jay McInerney's *Bright Lights, Big City*), but here plods on in monotonously morose fashion. The technique's worst defect, however, is that although the writer notionally aims her prose more pointedly at the reader by perpetual use of the word "you", it actually works the other way and acts as a barrier to involvement.

A wizard time in Discworld

FANTASY

Philippa Toomey

THE COLOUR OF MAGIC

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

EQUAL RITES

WYRD SISTERS

MORT

SOURCERY

STRATA

THE DARK SIDE OF THE SUN

PYRAMIDS

Corgi, £3.50

All by Terry Pratchett

YOU do not necessarily have to have written a new diet to be on the best seller list – and so *Pyramids*, by Terry Pratchett, which I picked up in an idle moment, turned out not to be an expensive way to sharpen razors-blades. Keats, in "On Looking into Chapman's Homer", put my feelings rather well:

"Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken."

Keats had not read any Homer, and I had not read any Pratchett, but, unlike Rossetti, who decided to read Homer in three days, I had to give rather more than to the Pratchett oeuvre of nine.

Mr Pratchett invented the Discworld, in the *Colour of Magic*. A great turtle swims through space. On its back are four giant elephants, on whose shoulders the disc of the world rests. We know this only because the extremely inquisitive inhabitants of the small kingdom of Krull lowered some early astrologists over the edge to have a quick look.

Central to the books is the horrible twin city of Ankh-Morpork, where the river Ankh is so polluted that you can heave the water out with a net. The stench, from which all visitors reek in horror, is a source of pride to wizards, trolls, dwarfs, assassins, thieves and other inhabitants. On the miniature jewelled map of the Discworld, the city is marked with a carbuncle and, by arrangement, thieves and muggers will give you a receipt.

Rincewind, the incompetent wizard, features in several of the books, a man destined to survive because of his instinctive cowardice. He begins his adventures with Twoflower, a tourist from another planet, who blunders innocently into some terrible situations, followed by his luggage, a large brassbound chest made from the rare sapient pearwood, and equipped with hundreds of little legs.

The luggage has a life of its own (it appears in several volumes) and provides clean, ironed clothes scented with lavender to its owner, while crushing up attackers with a frightening mahogany tongue and an undecided number of teeth. It sticks with its owner, can find him anywhere, going through walls if necessary, and in pubs it sits threateningly at your feet, requiring to be fed with crisps.

The luggage is only one of many happy inventions. There is the passing out exam for young assassins – only one in 15 pass, and you never hear of the other 14 again. Teppic, the heir to the throne of Dijelli, a river kingdom two miles wide and a 150 miles long, pretends to be an assassin and his efforts to extricate himself from being a god king and having to go on building expensive pyramids forms the central tale of *Pyramids*.

In other books we see quite a lot of the Unseen University, a college for wizards, where the

librarian, having been turned into an orang-utan by mistake, has to remain one. The angst of modern life has been refined to a mild anxiety as to where the next banana is coming from, and prehensile toes and long arms are useful in a library where most of the books are chained, not to vice versa, and the shelves buzz with leaking magic.

Sex raises its magic head in *Equal Rites*, when the eighth son of an eighth son turns out to be a daughter who has all the ability of a first-class wizard, but has to deal with male wizard chauvinism. *Wyrd Sisters* has an engaging trio of witches who involve themselves in an entirely probable plot of the long-lost son of the murdered king found, not by gypsies, but by strolling players. He becomes the Discworld's Olivier, thanks to a talented dwarf playwright, and gains his kingdom with a play which is almost *Hamlet* but has parts for three witches.

There are two non-Discworld books, *Strata* and *The Dark Side of the Sun* which did not work quite so well for me, although, I liked the notion that to translate a lost language you need only a mad computer, and a poet. Mad computers we have, which poet should take on *Linen A* or *Etruscan*?

From the riches of a well-stocked mind come fantastic cities, excellent jokes (like Jan Morris, mainly in the footnotes) and maddening puns. (What do you call people stealing musical instruments? Lutes, of course.)

There are travels by bumble-headed broomstick. Death himself makes an entrance, and stays drinking cocktails, together with longlass and scythe, and there is the Broken Drum, the Ankh-Morpork equivalent of Lang's Brasserie.

"Much have I travelled in the realms of gold," Keats said. He didn't know the half of it. But if you try a sonnet, "On first looking into Terry Pratchett", a man called Wilkinson will dig up every alternate line.

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OUT NOW IN PENGUIN

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Urban collapse: no casualties

David Robinson on
Where the Heart Is, Romuald and Juliette, Days of Thunder, The Killer
and the latest films from the "New Directors" scheme funded by Channel Four and the British Film Institute

Twenty years ago in Britain, John Boorman made an odd, enigmatic fable, *Leo the Last*, which rather passed the public by. His latest American film, shot in New York, explores a very similar piece of real estate. *Leo* was set in a crumbling mansion, beached like a whale in Notting Hill. Its proprietor, an Italian prince (played by Marcello Mastroianni), emerged from his splendid isolation to mix with the dispossessed street people.

The location of *Where the Heart Is* (15, Odeon Mezzanine) is a Dutch-style Brooklyn brownstone mansion, a lone survivor scheduled for re-development as an office high-rise. When conservationists frustrate his plans to raze it, a ruthless demolition tycoon (Dabney Coleman), finds a perverse use for the ruin. Throwing his three spoilt children out of his house, he gives them the brownstone and challenges them to survive there on their own resources.

Thereafter, the script, which Boorman has co-authored with his daughter Telsche, becomes complicated. As the children build a new surrogate family around them, the father's life falls apart and the American stock market crashes. Much as Leo did, all these people in *extremis* take to the pavements and join up with their "brothers" who dwell in cardboard boxes under the Brooklyn Bridge.

This is Boorman's comic metaphor for cosmic anxiety — about the failure of traditional family and social equilibria, the betrayed ecology, the precarious caprices of the capitalist business cycle.

He sustains its light tone. The dialogue is crisp and funny ("You can't just spoil us," an aggrieved daughter protests to her parents, "and then just stop spoiling us when it suits you")

The casting, including a lot of unknowns and fresh personalities, is as shrewd as in all Boorman's films. Christopher Plummer appears, unrecognisable as a malodorous vagrant, demonstrating what a good actor can do with a part that might mislead others into easy character business.

Decoratively, the film's biggest asset is the "living paintings"



Decorative asset: Sezey Amis (left) making Uma Thurman into a "living painting" in John Boorman's *Where the Heart Is*

of Timna Wooldard — landscapes painted in *trompe-l'oeil* on human bodies which are incorporated into canvases. Attributed to one of the daughters, these curious works figure importantly both as metaphor and décor.

Boorman always had problems in ending his films. Having realised his comic horror vision with some effect, he erases it with a happy-end finale — the status quo restored to everyone's satisfaction — so easy as to appear quite cynical. Perhaps that is his intention.

Romuald and Juliette (12, Cannon Première Swiss Centre, Camden Plaza, Barbican) is another comic fable about the reconciliation of the two worlds of a dangerously divided society. Romuald (Daniel Anteuil) is the archetypal successful executive: managing director of a burgeoning yoghurt company, with a model home and family, a compliant board, a chauffeur, a mistress, and a faithful ally in the corporate cut-and-thrust, who also happens to be having an affair with his wife.

Juliette is the office cleaning lady — a middle-aged black woman with no money, five children and as many discarded husbands.

When Romuald is threatened by a plot to unseat him, Juliette alone takes pity on him and gives him the benefit of inside information she has gathered as the unseen presence with the vacuum cleaner.

Romuald, in turn, becomes so infatuated with this wise, calm, good, solid earth-mother that he is prepared to give up everything to possess her.

Coline Serreau, who wrote and directed the film, leapt to fame

with *Three Men and a Baby*, which was a major box-office success both in its original French version and in an American remake by other hands. This new film looks instantly destined for an American version, no doubt as a vehicle for Whoopi Goldberg.

Meanwhile, *Juliette* is played by Firminé Richard, who shows herself in her first acting role a remarkable natural star — large and plain, not beautiful but magnificent enough to make Romuald's devotion comprehensible.

A passion for stock-car racing is helpful, if not essential, to appreciate *Days of Thunder* (12, Empire). There is little else in the first half hour, and even after that most of the action is on the track. Tom Cruise fans will have to settle for him helmeted and covered with oil for a good deal of the running time.

With the same director, Tony Scott (see interview, below), the film clearly aims to be a follow-up to *Top Gun*, and Scott films the car-racing with the same hi-tech skill and elaboration as the flying scenes in the earlier film. *Days of Thunder* is an impressive first feature assignment for the cinematographer Ward Russell.

The weakness of *Top Gun* was the script. *Days of Thunder* is credited to Robert Towne, a classy Hollywood writer, and Tom Cruise himself; but they have come up with a cliché sports story. Cruise is the brash newcomer who challenges the tough champion; Robert Duvall is the seasoned old manager-mentor with a shady

past. There are spills, set-backs, heartbreak, reconciliations and love — here in the gracious shape of Nicole Kidman, with a peculiar Australo-American accent.

After the ambitions of *Born on the Fourth of July*, Cruise regresses to a role that any pretty guy could play. It is interesting, though, to notice how the film markets his sexual attractions. Although he is allowed to desire and court the female, it is always the woman who is the sexual aggressor (in one scene he is actually dethroned by a call-girl disguised as a cop) — clearly inviting the vicarious identification of the young female audience. The film's most substantial merit is Robert Duvall as the hoary manager, whose warm wisdom turns into something demonic as he becomes Cruise's Svengali, directing him via Svia's Vengali, directing him via Svia's

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BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Paul Burden and Fiona Foster 8.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But First This... Children's entertainment, beginning with *Belle and Sebastian* (r) 9.25 Why Don't You...? Entertaining ideas for young people at a loose end (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by *The Jetsons* 10.30 Playdays. Includes a visit to Dunwich Health on the Suffolk coast (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Gary Watson reads from the Gospel of Mark
11.00 News and weather followed by *Peaceable Kingdom*. Drama series following the fortunes of a woman who becomes director of Los Angeles County Zoo
12.00 News and weather followed by *The Garden Party*. A look at the dangers of passive smoking, at the workplace and in public areas, and how to cope with AIDS in the family. Mavis Nicholson asks Anna Reesburn about her first kiss 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Holiday Outings. Anne Gregg takes a two-week fly-drive holiday to California (r)
2.00 Cricket: Second Test. Live coverage of the afternoon session in the game at Old Trafford between England and India. Continues on BBC2
4.00 Cartoons 4.10 The All New Popeye Show 4.35 Bad Boys. Episode three of the 10-part serial about a mischievous young man (r)
5.00 Roundabout 5.10 We Are the Champions. Top sports-commentator Ron Pickering introduces this special edition featuring teams of disabled children competing in a series of fun



Mark, Roma and their surrogate baby (9.30pm)

races and games in the pool and on the track. From the National Sports Centre for Wales in Cardiff
5.35 Sports (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
8.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Andrew Harvey. Weather 8.30 Reporting Scotland Northern Ireland: Niallouran
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Gary Davies (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 EastEnders. More drama from the inner-city soap. (Ceefax)
8.00 Life on One. This special episode of the topical magazine programme which aims to offer an understanding of current issues comes live from a cross-Channel ferry. Sarah Greene and Simon Mayo ask whether enough has been done in the way of improvements to ferries since the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster three years ago
8.30 Waiting for God. Gentle comedy series about the recalcitrant residents of a retirement village. Last in the series. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Dad's Army
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. News and weather
9.30 Q. E. D.: Love Child. © The emotional shockwaves set up by Baby A, the two-part American television film about surrogacy shown on BBC1 on Tuesday and last night, have no sooner started to recede than BBC weighs in with a true-life British version of the same situation – a couple arranging for another woman to bear their child. No chicanery here, though. This is as-it-happens documentary, the camera recording every twist of the high-risk triangular relationship with the excusable exception of the production of the father's semen and its introduction into the surrogate womb. With or without its biological scaffolding, *Love Child* is an almost

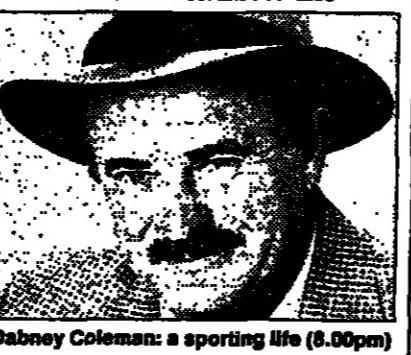
unbearably involving account of an act of selflessness such as only one woman in a million would be prepared even to think about. (Ceefax)
10.30 The Play On One: Killing Time. © Early on, Kavita Elyot's shiver-down-the-spine drama has a fanged Nosferatu (on television), and the perfect picture of misery (bemoaning the fact that the absence of love is the most abject of pains). Also on the screen is Mrs Thatcher, sermonising about the spiritual dimension of money (it's what use we make of it that matters, etc, etc). The words of vampire and P.M. coalesce in Elyot's talk of a lonely homosexual DHSS clerk (Pip Donaghy) perpetually disappointed in love, who offers bed-sit luxury (a bed, fried eggs, and opera on LP) to a young thug (Adrian Gillen) half his age and a hundredth his experience. The opening scene is not of the clerk's hand reaching out for someone else's hand, strangely unresponsive, offers only the smallest clue to the nature of the play's macabre climax. (Ceefax)
11.45 Weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: Inner-City Story — The Docker. Ends at 7.10
9.00 Mastermind 1980 (r). Wales: 8.30 Mastermind 1980 9.05 Bare Del 9.35 Arthur Negus Enjoys. An intriguing glimpse of Victorian England is seen when Arthur Negus looks at a collection of attractive 19th-century pot lids belonging to actor Leslie Crowther (r)
9.50 Cathedrals of Conflict. Has church fund-raising become big business? A look at the special inquiry set up by the Bishop of Lincoln into a dispute over the cathedral's financial management (r)
10.20 The Cowboy Coppers. A report on the private security business in Scotland, where the police claim that some small firms are employing criminals and legitimate firms complain that the industry's standing is being undermined. The reporter is Ian Kellagher (r)
10.50 Cricket: Second Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the first day's play between England and India at Old Trafford, Manchester.
1.05 Past and Present: Delta Expo. A look at The Netherlands' 1953 flood control project, the Delta Plan, in the context of the country's 2,000 year history of hydraulic engineering 1.20 Mr Benn. Cartoon (r)
1.35 Cricket: Second Test. Further live coverage of the afternoon's play from Old Trafford.

2.00 News and weather followed by *The National Estatocast*. The Charing of the Bard continues at the Royal National Theatre, where critics and archdrunks honour the career of Wales' most covered poetry prize, introduced by Sara Edwards
3.30 Look. Stranger. Exploring the work of Malcolm Appleby, who "scratches" on metal at a derelict railway station (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Cricket: Second Test continued from BBC1
4.25 Simple Minds. Jim Kerr and the band's members talk about their musical and political roots (r). Wales: 6.25 8.00 Film: Blackbeard the Pirate
7.05 Frogmore House: A Royal Retreat. John Julius Norwich tells the story of Frogmore House, which for 200 years has been a private retreat for female members of the Royal Family. Having undergone restoration, it is now open to the public
7.35 Business Matters: Give and Take. Second of three dramatisations showing how to use meetings as part of a successful management strategy. (Ceefax)
8.00 The "Stop" Maxwell Story. Debrah Colemen and Shirley Jones star in the superior US comedy series about the life and loves of a veteran sports writer
8.25 On the Line. As the international squash season gets into the swing, Sue Mott and Ray Stubbs look at the Khan family's outstanding success on the squash courts

9.00 The Travel Show with Penny Junor, John Threlfall and Matthew Collins. Tonight's programme includes a report on Sanidero on the Spanish coast and a UK mini-guide to Bath the Tracy Ullman Show. Tracey Ullman's award-winning US show with comedy routines in her own special style
9.30 Strangeways. Another chance to see the award-winning series on the conditions in the maximum security prison, first shown ten years ago, and now seen in a new light after April's riots (r)
10.30 Newsnight
11.15 Cricket: Second Test. Highlights of the first day's play in the game at Old Trafford between England and India
11.55 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am Health and Disease — Customer Service. Ends at 12.35



Debrah Colemen: a sporting life (8.00pm)

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
5.00am Radio Bramble 8.50 Sport
8.00am 5.50 Sport 8.00 The Park 1. Radio Show 12.00pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 2.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 7.00 News 8.00 Matt Goss 7.00 Top of the Pops (BBC1) 8.00pm Specialist 10.00 The Late Show 10.00 Noddy Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob & Hems

RADIO 2

FM Stereo
4.00am Alan Titchmarsh 5.30 Chris Stuart 7.20 David Jameson 9.30 John Chalmers 10.00 The Saturday Show 10.30 The Sunday Show 11.00 Sport 12.00 News 12.45 John Davies 2.00 Sarah Kennedy 4.00 Neil Sedaka 4.10 John Dunn 7.00 Jimmy's Cricket Team (new series) 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 Gloucester 9.40 Agatha Christie's Mystery Hour 10.00 Bruce 12.00am Jazz Parade 12.30 The Law Game 1.00-4.00 Bill Rentals with Night Rides 1.35 Cricket: Second Test. Further live coverage of the afternoon's play from Old Trafford.

FM as above except 5.45-7.00pm Sport and Classics Results

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST.
8.00am World News 6.00 24 hours 6.30 London Music 6.59 Weather 7.00 Newsreaders 7.30 Japan Free, Wales 8.00 The Farming World 8.00 World News 8.00 News 8.30 Europe 8.45 Network 9.00 World News 9.00 Words of Faith 9.15 Good Books 9.30 John Peel 10.00 World 10.05 Review of the Week 10.15 The World Today 10.30 Foreign News 10.45 Sports Roundup Society Today 11.01 The Lives of Joseph Stalins 11.30 Mid-Magazine 11.55 Travel News 12.00 World News 12.00 News about Britain 12.15 Special 12.30 London Weather 1.00 Medicine 1.15 Multichoice 2.15 4.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 World News 2.00 24 hours 3.00 News 3.30 Sport 3.45 The World Today 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.45 Sport 4.50 News 5.00 Sport 5.15 London Sat 5.15 The World Today 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.50 Nachrichten 8.00 Outlook 8.30 Sport 8.45 Sport 8.50 Sport 8.55 Sport 8.55-9.00 The Final Word 9.00 World News 9.00 9.30 The Final Word 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Meridian 10.01 Sports Roundup 10.15 Seven Seas 10.30 Global News 10.45 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Bishop attacks 'barbarous slaughter' of Ian Gow

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prime Minister and senior government colleagues were among the huge congregation at a solemn and stirring funeral mass yesterday for Ian Gow, the Conservative MP murdered by the IRA 10 days ago.

While it was essentially a spiritual tribute to a convinced and committed Christian, its staging and the scale of the attendance gave it unmistakable political overtones.

In his sermon the Bishop of Lewes, the Right Rev Peter Ball, said there was a rightful place for anger and what took place on Monday of last week was a barbarous act of slaughter.

He continued: "I am no politician, but we all know that the IRA is discredited and unwanted by every just and humane government in the world. So it has become absolutely clear that they now have only one purpose left, in all they do, and that is the triumph of evil."

"Those terrorists did what they call a successful operation. But within hours there was the

strengthening of a nation's resolve and the flowing of a nation's love."

Hours before the service began police blocked off roads in Eastbourne and mingled with holidaymakers in the bright sunshine, while buildings were searched and manhole covers lifted for inspection. Marksman occupied vantage points overlooking the Victorian red-brick church of St Saviour and St Peter, of which Mr Gow had been a member and helicopters buzzed overhead.

Of the 650 places in the church, 160 were reserved for family and friends and the rest allotted on a first-come basis. By mid-morning there were already long queues.

Among the first of the invited guests to arrive were Cecil Parkinson and his wife Anne followed at a brisk march by two squads of standard bearers from the Royal British Legion, their banners surmounted by black ribbons.

Mrs Thatcher and her husband Denis and daughter Carol arrived just ahead of Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe. The old soldiers lowered their banners in unison as Mr Gow's widow Jane, arrived supported on the arms of her sons Charles and James but looking composed and even managing a smile for the cameras.

The service, planned by Mr Gow himself, in a letter to his wife opened after his death, was conducted by the Bishop of Chichester Dr Eric Kemp. It was relayed by loudspeaker to the crowds outside in the open air and in the nearby Roman Catholic church of Our Lady of Ransom where a requiem mass had been held for him last Sunday.

The Prime Minister gave the first reading from St Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians. During the communion the clear soprano sound of the Pie Jesu from Faure's Requiem floated above the hushed congregation. The final antiphon, "May the Angels lead you into Paradise" was followed by the singing of "I Vow To Thee My Country".

Afterwards the coffin was borne from the church by pallbearers from Sussex Police. The hearse, followed by a fleet of limousines carrying family and relatives, was driven away to a crematorium about a mile from the Gow home in Hove.

A friend of Miss Bhutto's husband, a friend of Miss Bhutto's husband, was arrested.

The caretaker government announced that candidates for the proposed new election would be vetted for their fitness for office under a procedure called "the process of accountability."

The administration has given immigration authorities a list of 32 names of people banned from leaving the country pending investigations against them. The government is purging the bureaucracy of large numbers of senior officials said to have got their jobs through political patronage. It published a lengthy list of names of the first batch of people to be dismissed.

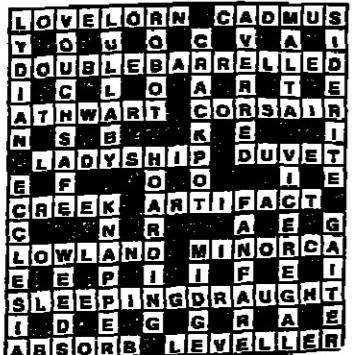
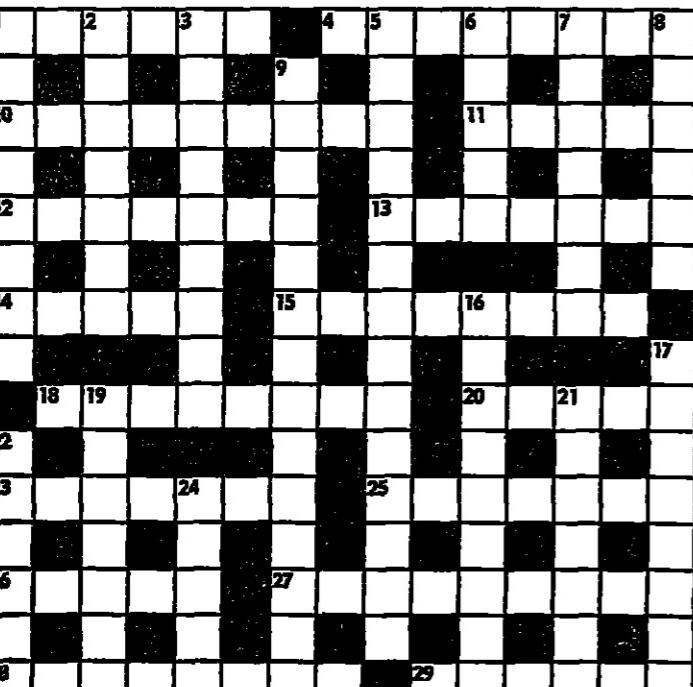
Friends of Ian Gow have established a trust fund to help young people from Northern Ireland. A bank account has been set up at National Westminster Bank, 96 Terminus Road, Eastbourne. Postal donations may be sent to the bank, and contributions will also be accepted at all National Westminster branches.

Letters, page 13

Trust Fund

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,368



26 An alternative is to join the German class (5).
27 Man troubled with strife - Adam, perhaps? (5-4).
28 The build-up to Easter is ragged and unconvincing we hear (4-4).
29 Wound not dressed after the onset of sepsis (6).

30 Leave tree lying down, by the sound of it (8).
31 Get rid of about ninety duck (7).
32 Who admitted Edward? (9).
33 Routine of a kind was orally amended (3-2-1-4-4).
34 Tie the pieces up (5).
35 Take a lot of exercise during treatment (7).
36 Credit abroad is ultimately unavoidable, upsetting me... (6).
37 Was as long as I live, however hard I try (3-3-4-2-2).
38 Bet men run riot to get the top office (6-3).
39 Foreign Office gets Ambassador in to study what the temples contain (8).
40 Keep using strange dialect (7).
41 Narrow footway that was solitary in Kipling's story (7).
42 In truth, many have a calming effect (6).
43 A prison officer's salary (5).

44 Solution to Puzzle No 18,367
45 LOVE LORN CADMUS
LYCUS OCYAN
DUBBLE BARRELED
ICLON ALATE
ATHWART CORSAIR
NSBE RKE I
LADYSHIP DOUET
EFOOIE
GREEK ARTIFACT
NR AEG
LOWLAND MINORCA
EPIFIE
SLEEPING DRAUGHT
IDE GHRAGE
ABSORB LEVELLEN

Concise Crossword, page 15



Tom King, defence secretary, and Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, announcing British moves after yesterday's meeting on the Gulf

Protesters thrown out of city council meeting

By RONALD FAUX

BAILIFFS and police armed with a court order moved demonstrators from Liverpool council chamber yesterday after they delayed the start of a city council meeting for three hours. More than 70 members of local government union Nalgo occupied the chamber to protest about new methods of calculating how much should be deducted from council workers' pay when they went on strike.

Afterwards the coffin was borne from the church by pallbearers from Sussex Police. The hearse, followed by a fleet of limousines carrying family and relatives, was driven away to a crematorium about a mile from the Gow home in Hove.

Ms Judy Cotter, the union's branch secretary, accused the council of tearing up an agreement reached 35 years ago, which said that one-seventh of an employee's pay should be deducted. As a result, another 79 union members involved in collecting the city's community charge and 12 telephonists operating the council's switchboard will be balloted for strike action starting next week.

When the bailiffs arrived with the Liverpool crown court order, the union protesters left the building singing and shouting at the beleaguered councillors. The dispute was caused by the council's decision to deduct one-fifth of a week's pay for every day a group of 28 environmental health workers had been on strike. They staff stopped work two weeks ago.

Ms Judy Cotter, the union's branch secretary, accused the council of tearing up an agreement reached 35 years ago, which said that one-seventh of an employee's pay should be deducted. As a result, another 79 union members involved in collecting the city's community charge and 12 telephonists operating the council's switchboard will be balloted for strike action starting next week.

West Africa peace force set to move into Liberia

Continued from page 1

the weekend by one of two rival groups attempting to topple President Doe, in an attempt to provoke outside intervention in the civil war.

American marines were airlifted into Monrovia at the weekend after Prince Johnson, leader of one of the rebel groups, threatened to arrest all foreigners but Washington emphasised that their purpose was only to evacuate foreign nationals and to protect US installations.

Yesterday, Prince Johnson paraded 22 hostages from eight countries before foreign correspondents. The others included a Dutchman, two West Germans and 10 Lebanese.

President Doe, meanwhile, was reported to have welcomed the decision reached in Banjul, Gambia, on Tuesday by a standing committee of the 16-nation Economic Community of West Africa

to send a peacekeeping force consisting of units from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Togo.

President Babangida said his troops would be deployed soon in Monrovia. He hoped they would meet no resistance but they would be prepared to impose a truce if necessary. Other reports said the Nigerian military contingent would number 500. Lieutenant-General Arnold Quainoo, a Ghanaian cabinet minister and former commander of the Ghanaian army, is believed to have been appointed to lead the peacekeeping force.

President Babangida said on his return to Lagos from the summit: "I believe the United States shares our desire to bring peace to Liberia and halt the daily carnage there, especially around Monrovia, urgently, and we are hoping that this operation will get the support of America."

Royalty previews special music

By RICHARD MORRISON
ARTS EDITOR

AN INTRIGUING concert took place in central London last Thursday. There were three specially commissioned first performances by young British composers, and an assembly of performers that would make any music-lover's mouth water: the great Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, the English Chamber Orchestra, the violinist Jose Luis Garcia, the soprano Marie McLaughlin and the conductor Raymond Leppard.

Yet few knew about the event in advance, no tickets were sold, and no critics were invited to record their impressions.

Perhaps the venue — the ballroom at Buckingham Palace — had something to do with that. The concert was organised by the Prince of Wales as a birthday present for the Queen Mother. He commissioned one of the new works, a choral piece called *The Thistle and the Rose*, from Patrick Doyle — hitherto best known as the composer of the soundtrack music for Kenneth Branagh's film of *Henry V*.

David Matthews's *Romance* for cello and orchestra was commissioned by its soloist, Rostropovich. And the veteran conductor and musical patron Paul Sacher commissioned a new *Suite* for violin and orchestra from Patrick Gowers. Appropriately, the programme also included *Elizabeth of Glamis* by that king of musical pageantry, Eric Coates, as well as music by Elgar and Johann Strauss.

At last Thursday's concert the audience comprised the Queen Mother, other members of the royal family and friends. But the music-loving public will have a chance to hear the new pieces. The microphones of EMI recorded the whole event, and a disc being rushed out on September 3 to raise funds for the Prince's Trust.

"The idea for this concert came to me," writes the Prince of Wales in a foreword to the recording, "when I was trying to think up a more original birthday present for my grandmother."

"It suddenly struck me that here was a wonderful reason for commissioning some new music to celebrate a very special occasion and an even more special grandmother."



Rostropovich: Royal guest

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cloudy with showers and longer periods of rain. Rather brighter and drier weather will gradually spread from the west. Central and northern parts of England and Wales will have sunshine although there will also be showers. Remaining southern areas will stay dry and have the best of the sunshine. Outlook: unsettled with more rain in the north; dry and warm in the south.

ABROAD

Midweek

Scorborough 7.0°C, 0.6mm rain, 52% F

Hastings 9.0°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Margate 9.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% bright

Brighton 9.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Littlehampton 10.5°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Bognor Regis 11.3°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Southend 11.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Bournemouth 10.2°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Poole 10.7°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Southampton 10.2°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Exmouth 10.2°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Torquay 12.6°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Falmouth 11.1°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Newquay 11.1°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

City Isles 13.5°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Jersey 13.5°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Guernsey 13.5°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

St Helier 13.0°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Shetland 11.9°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Orkney 11.9°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Moncksound 7.1°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% bright

Douglas 3.0°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Aspinville 2.9°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Portsmouth 1.7°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Bristol 0.6°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Buxton 0.6°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Nottingham 0.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Newcastle 0.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Cardiff 0.9°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Colwyn Bay 0.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Swansea 0.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Aberdeen 0.4°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Edinburgh 0.7°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Glasgow 0.9°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Kirkcaldy 0.6°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% cloudy

Tuesday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

Midweek

Scarborough 7.0°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% F

Hastings 9.0°C, 0.5mm rain, 50% sunny

Margate 9.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% bright

Brighton 9.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% sunny

Littlehampton 10.5°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% sunny

Bognor Regis 11.3°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% sunny

Southend 11.8°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% sunny

Bournemouth 10.2°C, 0.5mm rain, 52% sunny

Poole 10.7

BUSINESS

THURSDAY AUGUST 9 1990

Executive Editor
 David Brewerton

Two more property groups in difficulty

TWO more property development companies yesterday confirmed they were in serious difficulties, fuelling speculation that the City's banks were taking a hard line on their property loan books (Matthew Bond writes).

Shortly before the official close, shares in the fully quoted Rockfort Group were suspended at 9p. The company said a temporary suspension had been sought, pending clarification of the company's financial position.

When Rockfort came to the market in June, 1988, the shares were offered at 140p a share, valuing the company at more than £60 million. At last night's suspension price, the company, run by the former Reading and Chelsea footballer Roger Snee, was valued at less than £4 million.

The timing of the announcement is thought to have been influenced by one made earlier by Broadwell Land, a USM group.

In June, Broadwell announced that it was in talks with an institution that could have resulted in the institution subscribing for what was expected to be about £20 million of new equity.

Broadwell said yesterday that these negotiations had been broken off. The shares, which a year ago stood at over 245p, fell 8p to 13p. At that level, the company is worth £3.3 million. Last night, Broadwell was still hoping to reach agreement with bankers.

Comment, page 25

SB debt reduced

SmithKline Beecham made further debt reductions in the three months ended June to end its half year with net debt of £822 million compared with £1.75 billion at the end of December. Pre-tax profits for the six months were £416 million on sales of £2.29 billion. A second quarterly dividend of 3.4p is declared.

Tempus, page 25

Ultramar drop

Ultramar, the oil and gas group, reported net income down from £62.5 million to £36.1 million, and earnings down from 17.1p to 9.8p for the first half. The interim dividend is up 17 per cent to 3.5p.

Tempus, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8675 (-0.0125)
 W German mark 2.9763 (+0.0125)
 Exchange index 94.8 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1748.5 (+0.1)
FT-SE 100	2237.5 (+1.7)
New York Dow Jones	2735.15 (+24.51)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	28509.14 (+856.07)
Closing Prices ... Page 27	

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
 3-month Interbank 15.14%
 3-month eligible bills 13.3%
 US: Prime Rate 10%
 Federal Funds 8%
 3-month Treasury Bills 7.37-7.36%
 30-year bonds 99.99%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ 1.8675	\$ 1.665*
£ DM 9765	DM 1.5240*
£ Swf 2.5055	Swf 1.3430
£ Ffr 8.90	Ffr 1.02
£ Dr 1.31	Dr 1.02
£ Yen 180.10*	Yen 180.10*
£ Index 94.6	Index 64.6
ECU 0.69397	SDR 0.72638
£ ECU 1.40974	SDR 1.37204

GOLD

London Fixing:
 AM \$384.75 pm \$384.75
 close \$382.00-\$82.50 (£204.50-
 205.00)
 New York
 Come: \$382.70-\$383.20*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep.) ... \$25.05 bbl (£27.40)
 * Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bangl. Taka
Australia \$	2.455
Australia \$	2.180
Bulgaria	2.550
Denmark Kr.	6.220
Denmark Kr.	1.120
Finland Mkr.	11.45
Finland Mkr.	1.116
Germany Dm	7.35
Germany Dm	1.25
Greece Dr	2.05
Greece Dr	2.35
Hong Kong \$	1.50
Hong Kong \$	1.50
Iceland Kr.	1.572
Italy Lira	1.270
Italy Lira	1.240
Netherlands Gld	2.45
Netherlands Gld	2.35
Norway Kr.	1.00
Norway Kr.	1.130
Portugal Esc.	2.12
Portugal Esc.	1.70
Spain Pta	150
Spain Pta	170
Sweden Kr.	1.15
Sweden Kr.	1.175
Switzerland Fr.	2.515
Turkey Lira	4.100
USA \$	1.25
Yugoslavia Dr.	2.00

Rates for small denominations only.
 Supplied by Bankers Trust. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
 Retail Price Index: 125.7 (June)

Lloyd's raises war premium on Gulf sailings

By OUR CITY STAFF

LLOYD'S of London insurance market, the largest in the world, announced a tenfold rise in war-risk premiums for vessels sailing into the Gulf.

From yesterday, a new seven-day bull rate of 0.25 per cent applies for calls to the Gulf north of latitude 24 degrees north but excluding the Gulf of Oman between 24 and 26 degrees north. There is also a 0.25 per cent premium for the Israeli port of Eliat. Last week, Lloyd's announced a 0.025 per cent premium for the Gulf as an immediate response to the Kuwaiti invasion.

For the Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia and for Iran north of 29 degrees 45 minutes north, a 1 per cent premium will be charged. These are the first war premiums to be applied since the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

In addition, the Lloyd's joint war committee has given seven days' notice from midnight on Friday that a 0.25 per

cent hull premium will be applied to the Saudi Arabian Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aden.

This premium may be increased before then; however, cover for Iraq and Kuwait has been held at 0.5 per cent.

Christopher Rome, an underwriter at C W Rome said: "These new rates reflect underwriters' very real concern over the current situation. They want to continue to offer cover to shipowners and operators engaged on legitimate trade, but they can only do so at what they consider prudent and realistic rates."

Meanwhile, the international oil tanker market is grinding to a halt because owners will not let their ships venture into the troubled Gulf. Tanker owners face costly charges to keep their vessels idle or running at a loss.

"Unless other Opec nations lend a hand and start pumping out more oil, tanker rates will keep falling," an analyst said. The tanker market has been in the doldrums since Iraq invaded Kuwait at dawn last Thursday. The two Gulf states were

pumping about 4.9 million barrels per day of oil just before the invasion.

Oil prices eased in London and New York on expectations that Open countries would boost production to compensate for the loss of crude from Iraq and Kuwait.

September Brent slipped to \$25.80 a barrel, against Tuesday's close of \$27.40, as dealers took advantage of the uneasy calm to take profits. Prices have soared to their highest since late 1985 because of the Gulf confrontation. They were around \$15 a barrel in June.

"Prices have been zigzagging and zagging to television," said Peter Gignoux, manager of the energy desk at Shearson Lehman Brothers, the American-owned securities house. "The outcome is that the market has had a few supply fears removed."

Steve Turner, an analyst of Smith New Court, said: "If things turn nasty in the Gulf you could still see \$40 before you see \$20 again."

Members of the 21-nation International

Energy Agency meet in Paris today to assess the impact of the Gulf tension on oil stocks. The IEA, created after the 1973 oil crisis, can ask members to curb demand or draw stocks. It can impose compulsory oil-sharing if supply falls 7 per cent below normal levels, although this system has never been tried.

Share prices in London spent another nervous session fluctuating wildly as investors tried to glean every scrap of information and speculation to emerge from the Middle East. The FT-SE 100 Index experienced a 36-point turnaround after earlier gains were wiped out to end the session a mere 1.7 up at 2,237.5. Dealers reported a few cheap buyers first thing in thin trading that saw only 429 million shares traded.

In New York, Wall Street rebounded in response to Washington's decision to move troops into Saudi Arabia and on bargain-hunting after the 10.7 per cent fall in the market since its mid-July peak.

The financial markets were generally firm after President George Bush formally announced the troop deployment.

In a luncheon press conference, Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury secretary, said that the United States needed strong economic growth.

Asked whether he had been silent on the need for the Fed to reduce interest rates to keep the economy moving, Mr Brady made clear that he favoured lower rates and said he had "not been silent".

● IBCA, the bank rating agency, is compiling a report on the Iraq and Kuwait exposure of rated banks and countries to assess the credit consequences of the freeze on assets of these two countries.

The agency has already put three of the banks it rates, United Bank of Kuwait, UK (rated A2), National Bank of Kuwait, France (A2), and Kuwaiti-French Bank, France (B2), on rating watch, pending a possible rating downgrade.

Stock markets, page 26

Berisford asset sale ready to go ahead

By ANGELA MACKAY

BERISFORD International, the troubled property and sugar group, is set to announce a series of asset sales over the next few weeks that will cut net debt from more than £1.25 billion to about £850 million by September 30, the end of the company's financial year.

The company's advisers have also prepared the first draft of a memorandum of sale for its most valuable asset, British Sugar, which should result in an auction starting by the beginning of next month.

Only an offer of at least £1.2 billion for British Sugar could stop the auction, sources close to the company said. Last week, J Schröder Wagg, the merchant bank, was retained in addition to Berisford's usual adviser, Charterhouse, to conduct the sale.

Berisford is trying to avoid a fire sale of British and American properties in a depressed market by selling its sugar business first.

Associated British Foods, Berisford's biggest shareholder, has asked the Office of Fair Trade to consider whether it would allow an offer.

British Sugar has about £200 million of debt and annual sales of more than £1 billion. The strategy de-

vised by the company's new board, led by John Slater and Peter Jacobs, will leave the rump of Berisford containing the property divisions and Bristar's food and drinks business. Analysts have suggested this would have a value of about £120 a share once group debt was removed entirely by British Sugar's sale.

Berisford, which put all its assets up for sale last month after it attributed a £144.5 million loss to shareholders, is also close to finalising contractual payout for its former chairman, Ephraim Margulies, and two former directors, Howard Zuckerman, who was behind the firm's disastrous investment in Manhattan property, and Harry Wilshire, once chief of the group's metals business.

Over the next month, Berisford will announce it has reduced its stake in its main commodities business, Rayner Coffee International, from more than 65 per cent to about 35 per cent. This will remove the item from the balance sheet along with about \$100 million of debt, but will provide a cash injection of only about £5 million.

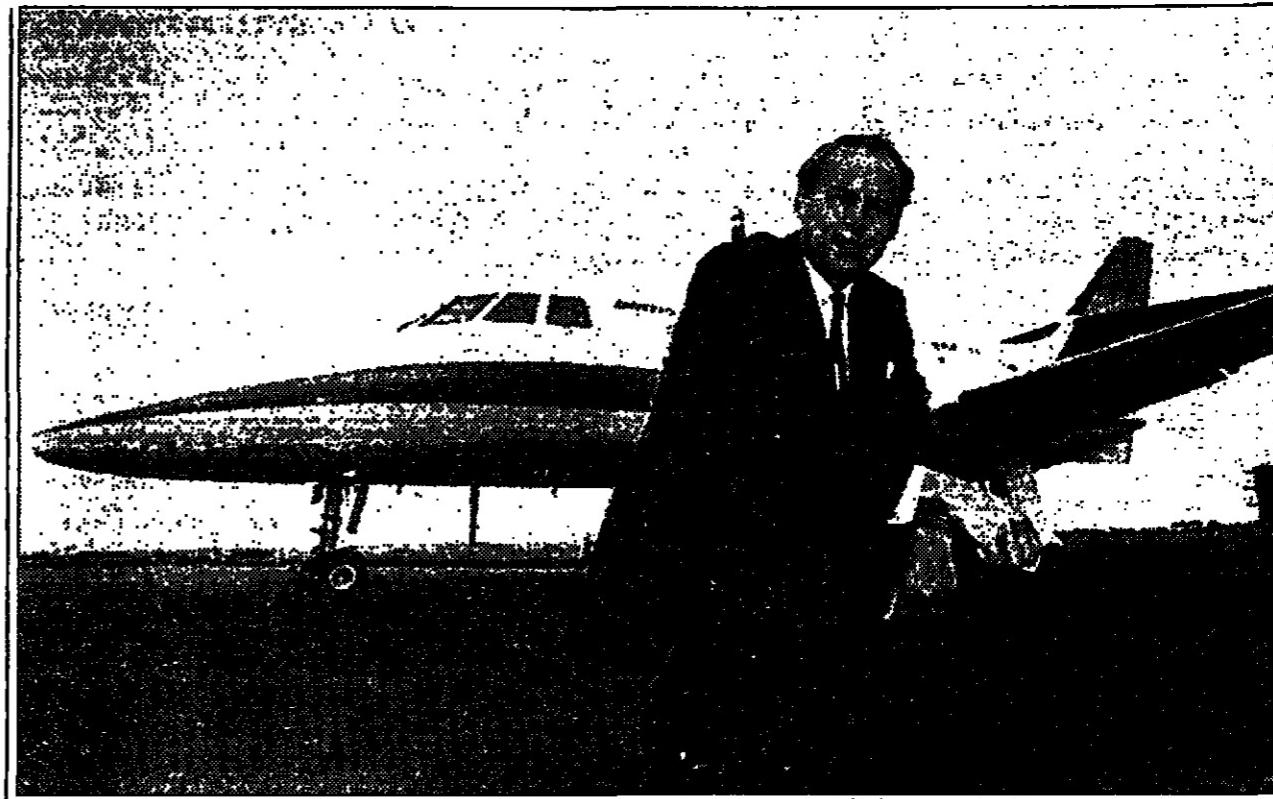
The leasing division is expected to be sold early next month, taking £90 million of debt with it, while the dried fruit and nuts business will also be sold. Sale of one of the 13 New York properties was completed recently for \$38.6 million, while the Blue Hills Plaza office development in Rockland County, New York, is under contract to Japanese buyers for about \$150 million.

In the past year, Berisford has provided £300 million against losses on New York property. The company has given warning that it may have to write off another \$53.5 million. Since news of the losses was made public, Berisford's shares have fallen from 151p to a low this week of 34p. The shares closed yesterday unchanged at 45p.

Berisford's 68 bankers, led by National Westminster, are involved in refinancing the company's debt and, once the investment in the coffee division is wound down, one layer of banks will be removed.

The company has cash in the bank of about £35 million, plus undrawn-down facilities of £100 million.

With the share price near its all-time low, it is believed two companies have tentatively approached Berisford about making an offer for the entire group that would be more tax effective for shareholders than an outright sale of British Sugar.



Contract winner: Charles Masefield, managing director of BAe's commercial aircraft airlines division

BAe lands \$200 US order

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Aerospace has secured its biggest-ever order for the Jetstream 19-seater turbo-prop airliner in a deal worth \$200 million from American Eagle, the regional airline partner of American Airlines.

AMR Eagle has ordered 35 Jetstream Super 31s with options on a further 15 aircraft. The airline is already operating 25 Jetstreams, which are used as feeder aircraft, taking passengers to main airport hubs including the international gateway.

Jetstreams, which began airline service in 1982, are manufactured at BAe's Prestwick factory in Strathclyde. The company says the new order will secure 25 seats for 29 which is due to have its first flight next spring.

Among options taken on the Jetstream 41 is 50 from AMR Eagle. If it exercises all its options, Eagle's fleet of Jetstreams will grow to 125.

Charles Masefield, managing director of the airlines division of BAe's com-

pany, said: "This order is a clear endorsement of the skills of the Prestwick facility and the reliability, durability, technical superiority and passenger acceptance of the Jetstream within AMR Eagle's ever-expanding route network."

Total orders for the Jetstream 31 and Super 31 now stand at 345. There are also ten firm orders from PanAm Express, PanAm's partner airline, for the Jetstream 41, a stretched version with seating for 29 which is due to have its first flight next spring.

Among options taken on the Jetstream 41 is 50 from AMR Eagle. If it exercises all its options, Eagle's fleet of Jetstreams will grow to 125.

There have also been some orders from regional airlines operating on less populous routes.

It could point the way to Jetstream being used increasingly as a commuter aircraft as well as a feeder to services flying out of main airport hubs.

SIMON

Equipment - Contracting - Industrial Services

- Operating profit up 11.5%
- Profit before tax up 15%
- Earnings per share up 12%
- Interim dividend up 16%

Chairman Roy Roberts says:

"The achievements of 1989 have continued into the first half of 1990, further underlining the soundness of the strategic changes that management has made to turn the Group into a major international organisation."

Whilst it is impossible to predict the world effect of the current Middle East situation, I anticipate that our progress will be maintained throughout the rest of the year."

	Six Months Ended 30 June 1990 £'000	Six Months Ended 30 June 1989 £'000

Ratners extends deadline on Kay offer by 24 hours

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RATNERS Group, the British jewellers chain bidding £234 million for Kay Jewelers in America, has extended its tender offer to Kay bondholders by 24 hours. It is the second such extension since the original deadline of midnight New York time on Monday.

Gary O'Brien, Ratners' finance director, is reasonably confident that an agreement can be reached by the new deadline, although it cannot be guaranteed. He says there are signs that the bondholders may be willing to compromise. Ratners is offering 75 cents in the dollar for the

bonds. The bondholders have been asking for the full face value. Unofficially Ratners is believed to have indicated that it may be willing to offer 85 cents in the dollar. There is speculation in New York that the two sides may reach a compromise of 90 cents.

Technically the offer to the bondholders can be left open indefinitely, but the offer of \$17 for each Kay share to the equity holders is dependent on 51 per cent of the bondholders accepting the offer to them.

Analysts in New York said

yesterday that the holders of the \$100 million 12% per cent

bonds looked most likely to accept the offer, with holders of the \$50 million 12½ per cent bonds more likely to hold out longer.

Ratners said that so far \$324,000 of the 12½ notes and none of the 12% notes had been deposited pursuant to the tender offer.

If a settlement is not reached by the new deadline, Ratners will have to reconsider its strategy. It has the option of either walking away from the bid or increasing its offer to bondholders.

Ratners shares fell 6p to 233p.



General Accident

INTERIM RESULTS

The results of the General Accident Group for the six months ended 30th June 1990, estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1989, which are restated at 31st December 1989 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1989.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	6 Months to 30.6.90	6 Months to 30.6.89	Year 1989
Premium Income	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions
General Business	1,596.3	1,547.6	3,100.2
Long Term Business	199.9	198.3	381.3
	1,796.2	1,745.9	3,481.5
Investment Income	209.7	218.8	462.7
NZI Bank Result	(6.9)	(29.3)	(47.6)
Estate Agency Result	(10.3)	(8.3)	(20.5)
Underwriting -			
General Business Result	(227.8)	(48.9)	(203.8)
Long Term Business Profits	12.0	11.4	26.9
	(23.8)	143.7	217.7
Less Interest on Loans	42.9	21.7	64.5
U.K. Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	-	-	6.2
Profit (Loss) before Taxation	(66.2)	122.0	147.0
Taxation - U.K. and Overseas	(10.2)	37.6	32.1
Profit (Loss) after Taxation	(56.0)	84.4	114.9
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	(2.0)	(10.3)	(13.7)
	(54.0)	94.7	128.6
Long Term Business Profits - GA Life 1988 Valuation	-	-	9.5
Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders	(54.0)	94.7	138.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share			
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results	\$1.74	\$1.61	\$1.61
U.S.A.	\$2.03	\$1.87	\$1.87
Canada			

Notes:

- (1) Under a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Court of Session under Section 42 of The Companies Act 1985 and effective on 5th July, 1990 the shareholders of General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc received for each share then held, two new shares of 25p each fully paid in General Accident plc.
- (2) Investment Income excludes £5.8m (1989 £6.3m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.
- (3) The NZI Bank result includes gains and losses both realised and unrealised on investments held for trading purposes.
- (4) The transfer of shareholders profit from the long term business fund is stated gross of taxation and on a current year basis.

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	6 months to 30.6.90			
Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	
U.K.	565.9	(94.5)	517.3	19.1
U.S.A.	462.4	(48.6)	461.1	(33.9)
EEC other than U.K.	91.8	(27.6)	92.8	(13.3)
Canada	192.8	(0.9)	186.6	(4.8)
Pacific Basin	168.9	(26.4)	175.4	(9.5)
Other Overseas	55.4	(10.6)	48.0	0.3
London Market Business incl. Internal Reins.	59.1	(19.2)	66.4	(16.8)
	1,596.3	(227.8)	1,547.6	(48.9)

Net written premiums increased in sterling terms by 3.1% while investment income fell by 4.2%. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increase in premiums was 8.2% and the reduction in investment income, largely reflecting the impact on cash flow of higher claims costs, was 2.2%.

In the second quarter there was a worldwide underwriting loss of £57.6m [1989 £28.2m loss] with losses in the United Kingdom of £14.3m [1989 £5.9m profit] and in the United States of £20.6m [1989 £15.5m loss]. Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £21.7m [1989 £21.6m loss]. The pre-tax profit for the quarter amounted to £24.1m [1989 £67.1m profit].

For the six months, net written premiums in the United Kingdom were £565.9m [1989 £517.3m] and there was an underwriting loss of £94.5m [1989 £19.1m profit]. The Homeowners' and Commercial Property accounts produced losses of £20.2m [1989 £9.5m profit] and £36.4m [1989 £6.6m profit] respectively. Both accounts were severely affected by weather losses in the first quarter. There was also a sharp increase in large fire losses compared with the first half of last year when experience in this class of business was particularly favourable. The Motor account produced a loss at the half year of £25.6m [1989 £1.5m profit] reflecting a continued increase in both claims frequency and the average cost of claims. The Liabilities account showed improvement but continued to report losses.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$804.5m [1989 \$742.4m] with an operating ratio of 110.22% as compared with 106.93%. On the United Kingdom account basis the underwriting loss was £48.6m [1989 £3.9m loss]. An improvement against first quarter was achieved in all classes. In the second quarter personal lines also performed better than the equivalent period in 1989.

There was an encouraging result in Canada which reported an underwriting profit of £3.4m in the second quarter [1989 £0.8m profit] and a deficit at the half year of £0.9m [1989 £4.8m loss].

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £83.8m [1989 £29.3m loss] with most territories reporting increased losses. Results in Europe and Australia reflect the continued impact of bad weather.

New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first six months of 1990 were £25.3m [1989 £24.1m] and single premiums £20.6m [1989 £15.4m].

Dividend
The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1990 of 9.7p per share [1989 equivalent 8.75p per share] costing £1.9m [1989 £17.2m] payable on or after 1st January 1991 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members at close of business on 2nd November 1990.

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the Company in lieu of the cash dividend.

General Accident plc

World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

(*) Local currency.

GKN to invest \$140m in US pallet joint venture

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

GKN is planning to invest \$140 million in America's first nationwide hire pool of industrial pallets which are used in the delivery of \$150 billion worth of dry groceries every year. The decision is a key strategic move that analysts say could boost GKN's non-automotive profits in the next five years.

Ratners said that so far \$324,000 of the 12½ notes and none of the 12% notes had been deposited pursuant to the tender offer.

If a settlement is not reached by the new deadline, Ratners will have to reconsider its strategy. It has the option of either walking away from the bid or increasing its offer to bondholders.

Ratners shares fell 6p to 233p.



David Lees: a "significant" move in the United States

DC Cook recovers to £2.1m

PRE-TAX profits at DC Cook, the USM motor dealer and property group, recovered from £514,000 to £2.13 million in the year to end-April, although turnover slipped from £222 million to £191.5 million.

The company said problems in the motor division are being overcome. Earnings per share are 6.2p, against a loss 0.15p last time, while fully diluted earnings are 5.41p (0.13p loss). The final dividend is restored with a payment of 1p for the year (£.33p).

Property gain

Rents from investment properties owned by Property Security Investment Trust rose 24 per cent to £13.3 million in the year to March. Group pre-tax profits advanced slightly to £6.45 million. The final dividend is 2.25p (1.875p) giving a total of 3.75p (3.125p). Net asset per share is 213p, up 5p.

Compass sells

Compass Group, the contract catering and healthcare group, is selling its Rosser & Russell building services subsidiary to Norwest Holt, the civil engineering and contracting firm which is part of the Compagnie Générale des Eaux group, for £21 million of which £3 million will depend on profits.

Beales slips

John Beales, the textiles to refrigeration group, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.09 million to £2.02 million in the year to end-May. Earnings per share are static at 28p. The final dividend is 6.95p (5.75p), making 9p (7.69p) for the year.

Apollo Watch up

Apollo Watch Products, the USM watch strap maker which designs and distributes Disney character watches, lifted pre-tax profits from £426,000 to £480,000 in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share climb from 0.55p to 0.64p. Again there is no interim dividend.

Intercare leaps

Intercare Group, the USM optical and dental supplies group, made pre-tax profits of £169,000 in the six months to end-April, against £21,000 last time. Earnings per share jump from 0.5p to 1.5p. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Ranger ahead

Ranger Oil, the Canadian-based oil and gas company, reported first-half net income of US\$19.4 million, up from \$7.9 million, and earnings of 22 cents a share (10 cents).

Liquidation threat for Bond Corp

AFTER several reprieves, Alan Bond's master company Bond Corporation may be forced into liquidation if holders of the company's US\$340 million of convertible bonds vote against two resolutions presented in London today.

At a meeting at Bond Corp's headquarters in Northumberland Avenue, London, 75 per cent of the two classes of bond-holders must approve the resolutions, to grant a one-year moratorium on interest payments as well as the A\$1.8 billion sale of Bond Corp to Bell Resources, another Bond Corp company.

Last month, meetings were adjourned after Mr Bond offered to resign as chairman and reduce his control of Bond Corp from 56 to less than 25 per cent, as concessions.

Since then, Bond Corp missed a deadline to repay \$A880 million (£371 million) to a syndicate of banks led by National Australia Bank.

Alumina sales fell 6 per cent to 158,000 tonnes, mainly because of lower ingot demand. Mr Wolff is keen to emphasise continuity of policy after the turbulence of the tin crisis of the late 1980s, but he has, at the same time, no

Wickes tumbles on closure costs

By OUR CITY STAFF

PROFITS at Wickes, the do-it-yourself retailer, have been cut by Hunter Timber, the timber specialist and joinery merchant which it acquired from Hillsdown Holdings for more than £210 million two years ago.

Hunter, which has been through a period of heavy rationalisation, saw operating profits fall 35 per cent in the six months to end-June. As a result, group pre-tax profits fell from £15 million to £6.09 million. Sales slipped from £345 million to £338 million and earnings per share fell from 8.6p to 3.2p. The interim payout has been maintained at 1p.

Group profits include £3.36

Henry Sweetbaum, chairman and chief executive, said the poor housing market and the effects of the Hunter rationalisation programme had affected the business badly. About 550 employees were made redundant in the first half. Mr Sweetbaum said the rationalisation programme was more or less complete.

As a director of Rudolf Wolff & Co, a prominent ring dealing member of the LME, Mr Wolff is no stranger.

He was the last chairman of the ruling committee before the restructuring of the LME in 1987. He has been vice-chairman of the board since the LME was reorganised as a company. But his ascent to board chairman follows the unexpected resignation last month of Christopher Green.

Mr Wolff said he would maintain the direction of the past three years, underlining the importance of the LME as the pricing and hedging medium for the world's metal markets. Its annual contribution to Britain's invisible £100 million.

intention of standing still. He plans to extend the LME's position as the world's pre-eminent non-ferrous metals exchange, giving key roles to older and metal trade.

As a director of Rudolf Wolff & Co, a prominent ring dealing member of the LME, Mr Wolff is no stranger.

The glass merchant business contributed £8.3 million out of total domestic operating profits of £12.1 million, more than £2 million less than the first half of 1989.

Operating profits in the aluminium and plastics division rose from £3.3 million to £3.85 million

BARRING surprises, Commercial Union and General Accident will have settled first prize and wooden spoon for the season of composite insurance interims, in a single day. GA is suffering from being in the wrong business in the wrong places, while CU is benefiting from biting bullets

SB sold 31 American specialty products for £32 million and its UK-based Yardley/Lentheric cosmetics businesses for £110 million in the second quarter, and last month collected £210 million from the sale of Margaret Astor and Lancaster cosmetics. Asset sales from here on are likely to be edge trimming.

So far this year, the core pharmaceuticals division is 35 per cent higher at £336 million, while consumer brands have shown a 13 per cent improvement.

SB shares were 38p higher at 542p yesterday, and trade on a prospective p/e of 13.3. The prospects of further debt reduction and of more positive eps growth justify the shares as a hold.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Aling back in the fold

BARRY ALING, the top-ranked Far Eastern expert, who walked out of Swiss Bank Corporation in January, is back in business. And using the best of his corporate juggling skills, Aling, aged 40, has persuaded four former SBC colleagues to join him at his new company, Marlin Partners, which is billed as a small boutique operation offering specialist advice on the markets of the Far East. He will be working with Tim Lovell, John McCaw, Bobby Yerburgh and Tom Leventhorpe – all former cronies at WI Carr as well as SBC. Aling, who joined Phillips & Drew as a blue button at the age of 16 and went on to become managing director of WI Carr, has yet plans more up his sleeve. He has signed a joint venture with Ord Minnett, the Australian stockbroking subsidiary of Westpac, the banking group, to form a second company – Marlin Ord Minnett – which will be based in Hong Kong and aims to develop joint ventures with regional securities firms in Asia. "We hope to buy or build some form of network in Asia by taking minority stakes in local companies," says Aling, who commutes to his Piccadilly offices from Westerham, Kent, and enjoys skiing and playing squash.

SB competition

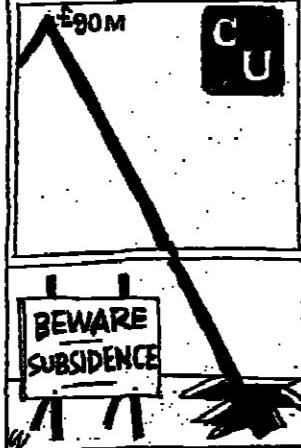
BOB BAUMAN, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham and himself an American, was rather miffed at his own President yesterday whose self-proclaimed "action bank", has been sent a specimen card for a record of his signature – 37 years after he opened his account. Hendry, who is retired and lives near Fort William, says he was surprised to receive the request so far down the line. "The letter arrived out of the blue," says Hendry who has held the same account with the bank since 1953 and switched to the Fenchurch Street branch in the City in 1972. "How did they know to accept our cheques and bankers' orders?" A NatWest spokesman said all new customers gave specimen signatures as a matter of course, adding: "I think it's just a bit of tidying up in the branch."

The third R

THE MERCURY NEWS, a newspaper in California, claims to have discovered a modern version of the three Rs: readin', 'ritin', and replacein' batteries in the calculator.

Moonlight notes

SOMEBODY, somewhere, has a wicked sense of humour. The Department of Trade and Industry has just realised that an insurance outfit in Birmingham, the West Midlands, and Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, has been issuing motor insurance cover notes, even though it is not authorised in any way to carry on any class of insurance. Anybody who has one of these notes is advised to seek alternative



Sign of the times

IAN HENDRY, a long-standing customer of NatWest, the

Cash is king at Standard Chartered

COMMENT

The stock market has damned Standard Chartered with faint praise. Yesterday, investors added 3.5 per cent to the bank's capitalisation, not because its half-year figures inspired any confidence, but since they were only as bad as expected.

The results provided plenty of fodder for the bears, but for once it was ignored. Standard had returned to the black, strengthened its capital ratio and maintained a 12.5p dividend, and investors seemed happy to enquire no further.

If they had, they might have worried that before bad debt provisions, profits fell 8 per cent to £192 million, despite last year's £400 million capital injection from the sale of unwanted property.

They might also have noticed that almost half Standard's trading profits came from its central financing business, which begs the question why it bothers to have a global banking network at all, when far better returns are available from a cash pile in the City. Prospective investors may finally have shuddered at a 69 per

cent tax charge, caused by unrelieved ACT. Standard now has £100 million in ACT provisions, which, since its UK business lost £7.6 million in the period, show little sign of being used. This is on a dividend that has not budged since the bank's forecast during the bid from Lloyds four years ago, and shows little prospect of an advance this year or next.

Nevertheless there are signs that Rodney Galpin's patent bank remedy is working better than the McMahon medicinal compound at Midland. In his two years as chairman, Mr Galpin has kept costs under control, and restored the balance sheet, neither of which has been managed by his former Bank of England colleague in Midland.

His final task however is the hardest. He must improve Standard's asset quality, as evidenced by a 133 per cent rise in bad debt provisions to £89.3 million. He has to do this while

maintaining the income stream, which is so depressed to leave him little room for manoeuvre. The jury, and the wise investor, would do well to stay out for the moment.

Back to basics

David Tweedie, chairman of the nascent Accounting Standards Board, knew he would be facing a baptism of fire over the issue of goodwill and the linked question of valuing acquired brands in balance sheets. His task will be made even more complex by an ingeniously constructed intervention by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The ICA suggests Mr Tweedie's board should, before

wrestling with accounting for goodwill, first define the purpose of a balance sheet. Back to fundamentals.

Essentially, it maintains, the tail wagged the dog in the committee's proposals. The proposals started with a desire to ban instant write-offs and not to allow goodwill, including brands, to be carried permanently in balance sheets. This, says the ICA response, was the driving force behind the simultaneous proposals on accounting for assets of all kinds. The process should have gone the other way.

"Once we have full agreement on the purpose of accounts and thus on the purpose of a balance sheet, we will be in a better position to reach agreement on accounting for separable fixed assets, tangible and intangible, and subsequently on accounting

for goodwill," says the ICA.

Quite so. Many users, such as lenders and investment analysts, have had to abandon meaningless balance sheets and rely on cash flow figures that have turned out to be less stable than they imagined. Unfortunately, there seems as much chance of the ASB agreeing in a few months on the purpose of accounts and balance sheets as of philosophers reaching unanimity on the meaning of life over lunch.

Lost property

Until this week the 1990 property slump differed from the 1973 property crash by not being accompanied by an oil crisis. It is far from certain for how much longer that distinction will remain. It is a time for cool heads.

August is a wicked month for any bank to pull the plug on a property company. More so than

virtually any other sector of business, the property sector is notorious for taking its summer holidays very seriously indeed.

So, if as appears the case, the bank backers of Rockfort and Broadwell Land have finally lost patience, they might be wise to take a deep breath and pause for thought before asking for their money back.

For prior to the great August exodus there were just the first signs that buyers were trickling back into the commercial property market. Reputable property agents were reporting interest from institutions that just a month or so earlier would have refused to go anywhere near a property investment, while some of the industry's more respected members, such as John Ritblat and Sir Nigel Brookes, were quietly intimating that, as yields rose on an almost weekly basis, the time for some selective buying was approaching.

September could well see buyers return, albeit looking for knock-down bargains. For some it will undoubtedly be too late, but with prudence the casualty list could be short.

TEMPUS

Looking forward to full benefits from SB

JOHN CHAPMAN



Pointing the way ahead: Bob Bauman yesterday and tightening its operations in the wake of previous disasters.

The January storm made the first quarter a dead loss for virtually all. In the second quarter, GA made pre-tax profits of just £14 million due to an all-round poor performance, making little impact on first-quarter losses and leaving an overall pre-tax loss of £6.2 million for the first half.

CU managed pre-tax profits of £42 million in the second quarter, thanks to static underwriting losses, making a £16 million pre-tax profit for the half year on premium

income about a fifth higher than GA's.

The second half is bound to reflect failure to raise premium rates against rising claims, though GA has raised rates on its important UK motor account. GA may well end up with a loss for the year, while CU may make about £80 million pre-tax, equivalent to 11.3p per share.

The best news was in the interim dividends, up 10 per cent at CU and 10.9 per cent at GA. If this trend persists, CU will yield 6.7 per cent on a full year payment of 23.7p or 47.0p, and GA 7.5 per cent on 27.15p at 49.6p.

Upstream activities will benefit from deliveries of liquid natural gas to Taiwan and the start-up in October of the Ravenspurne North gas field in the North Sea, in which Ultramar has a 12 per cent interest.

Downstream, North America can refining and marketing activities should make good first-half losses on stocks.

So much depends on the outcome of the Gulf conflict. But net income of £100 million this year and earnings of 27.2p puts the shares, at 35.5p, on an undemanding multiple of 13 and at a 40 per cent discount to net asset value of 600p, one of the highest in the sector. A strong hold.

Philips dashes European dreams

WHEN Philips, the Dutch electronics group, announces its half-year results today the disappointment will not be confined to Eindhoven, where the company has its headquarters, or to its shareholders.

For Philips' difficulties, which became apparent three months ago, might also signal the end of Europe's dream of a prosperous indigenous computer and electronic components industry.

In fact Philips, like Siemens, came late to the computer making and components businesses, when it was already clear that the Japanese were challenging US supremacy in these markets.

But the once proud protagonist of Dutch corporatism now expects to suffer losses of 2 billion guilders (£600 million) this year because of problems in its computer and components divisions. About 10,000 out of a total workforce of 293,000 will have to be laid off. Cor van der Klugt, has already been forced to resign as group chairman. Last

month, Philips warned shareholders that it would need to make provisions of £1.27 billion to cover reconstruction costs in the two divisions. However, at the same time, it repeated its commitment to these businesses.

Philips, like its West German rival, Siemens, has sought a presence in all the main electronics fields.

In fact Philips, like Siemens, came late to the computer making and components businesses, when it was already clear that the Japanese were challenging US supremacy in these markets.

As a result, the Europeans had not only to set up an industry almost from scratch, but also to close an ever-widening gap between themselves and the Japanese. This has been a crucial weakness of the European industry.

Siemens has had some success. Through dogged determination and huge investment, it has succeeded in narrowing the gap with the Japanese in the production of microchips.

Philips, in contrast, still trails a long way behind the

revealed few details of his plans. But his commitment to Philips' continued presence in the computer and components businesses has cast some doubt on his programme's viability.

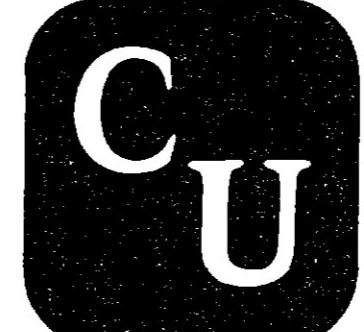
Philips' problems are a result of its corporate strategy. That strategy is similar to the one adopted by Siemens. But when the West Germans expanded its electronics businesses it had at its disposal huge cash reserves. Philips, by contrast, is highly geared at around 90 per cent.

Philips' main problem is its diversity. The company is not new to restructuring programmes. But, in the past, while one division was being restructured, another was going wrong.

It is now essential for Philips to recognise the uncertainty that faces the entire electronics sector in Europe and to concentrate on the most profitable areas.

These do not include computers and semiconductors.

WOLFGANG MUNCHAU



SIX MONTHS' REVIEW

Interim dividend raised 10%

★ Operating profit before taxation £16.0m (1989 £90.2m) affected by storms in the first quarter costing £55m.

★ Realised investment gains amounted to £45.5m and the profit attributable to shareholders was £54.7m.

★ Total premium growth 11%, but non-life markets remain competitive.

★ Life profits increase to £49.6m (1989 £44.1m) with strong new life premium growth of 39%.

★ United States improves to a profit of £2.6m (1989 loss £20.7m).

★ Shareholders' funds £1,477m.

HIGHLIGHTS

	6 months 1990 Unaudited	6 months 1989 Unaudited
Total premium income	£1,917.0m	£1,800.8m
Operating profit before taxation	£16.0m	£90.2m
Operating profit after taxation	£9.2m	£49.3m
Earnings per share	2.1p	11.7p
Interim dividend per share	9.0p	8.15p

Earnings per share are based on the operating profit after taxation.

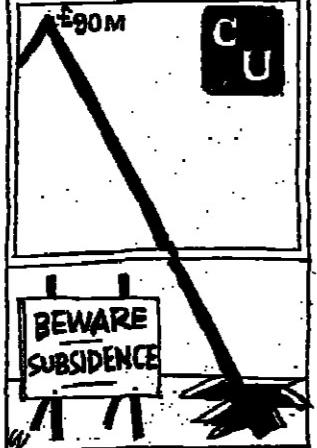
The interim dividend of 9.0p per share will be paid on 16 November 1990 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 31 August 1990 and will cost £38.5m (1989 £34.5m).

Shareholders will be offered the choice of receiving fully paid ordinary shares, rather than cash, in respect of all or part of the interim dividend.

The interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 13 August 1990. Members of the public may obtain copies of the report thereafter by writing to the Shareholder Relations Service, Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ or by telephoning 071-283 7500 ext. 8866.



Commercial Union plc



Sign of the times

IAN HENDRY, a long-standing customer of NatWest, the

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The great entertainer of modern golf must go back to his carefree roots if he is to challenge for the US PGA Championship

Ballesteros revival can deny Faldo's dream

From MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

SEVERIANO Ballesteros enters the US PGA Championship, starting here on the Shoal Creek course today, having suffered such a psychological pounding this summer that there would appear to be as much likelihood of him winning as there is of petrol prices plunging.

Ballesteros, whose exploits have created so many high-octane moments, seems to have emptied his tank of inspirational skills. The Spaniard has taken the chequered flag on only one occasion this season, and that in the Majorcan Open, which some cynics would describe as being worthy of no stars compared with the five reserved for major championships.

Ballesteros would admit that he is fuelled by the magnetism of the majors; naturally, he is becoming increasingly disillusioned by his lacklustre performances in the championships.

Ballesteros has won only one major, the 1988 Open of the last 24 in which he has teed-up, and he has not challenged for any one of the Championships which matters since his success at Royal Lytham and St Annes, with the exception of the 1989 Masters, when he faltered on the closing stretch.

It almost suggests that the Latin fire that once burned so brightly within him has all but been extinguished. Ballesteros looks only a shadow of himself when he missed the halfway cut at the St Jude Classic last week.

Some observers claim that his ardour for competitive golf has cooled since his marriage to Carmen Botin, the daughter of a wealthy Spanish banker. There is the feeling that the imminent birth of their first child has diluted both his desire, and his devotion to the practice range.

Other sceptics go further and condemn Ballesteros as a prisoner to personal greed. He has been accused of neglecting his professional duties to accumulate greater wealth.

Yet, since he has always been something of an enigma, attempting to interpret his objectives and moods has been a perennial problem. After moving into the front line in the Open of 1976, when he led with one round remaining, he has mixed scowls with smiles.

Not many realise the importance Ballesteros attaches to supporting charities. He often camouflages his emotions out of pure embarrassment — Ballesteros might be an extrovert on the fairways, but he is an introvert off them, and he would prefer that his generous acts go unnoticed.

There have been many, from presenting wheelchairs

to children to entertaining dinner a dumb youth who requested only his autograph. Ballesteros befriended him, found a way to communicate and paid for a taxi to take him home.

He views highly the need to entertain, and therein might lie the reason why Ballesteros finds himself among the supporting cast rather than centre-stage today. He can produce the goods, but he cannot always direct his game to benefit himself; what he possesses in ingenuity, he sometimes lacks in course management.

The issue has been complicated because Ballesteros seems to have become preoccupied with emulating Nick Faldo. The Spaniard is not suited to robotics, and when he tried the conservative approach at St Andrews last month, he missed the cut.

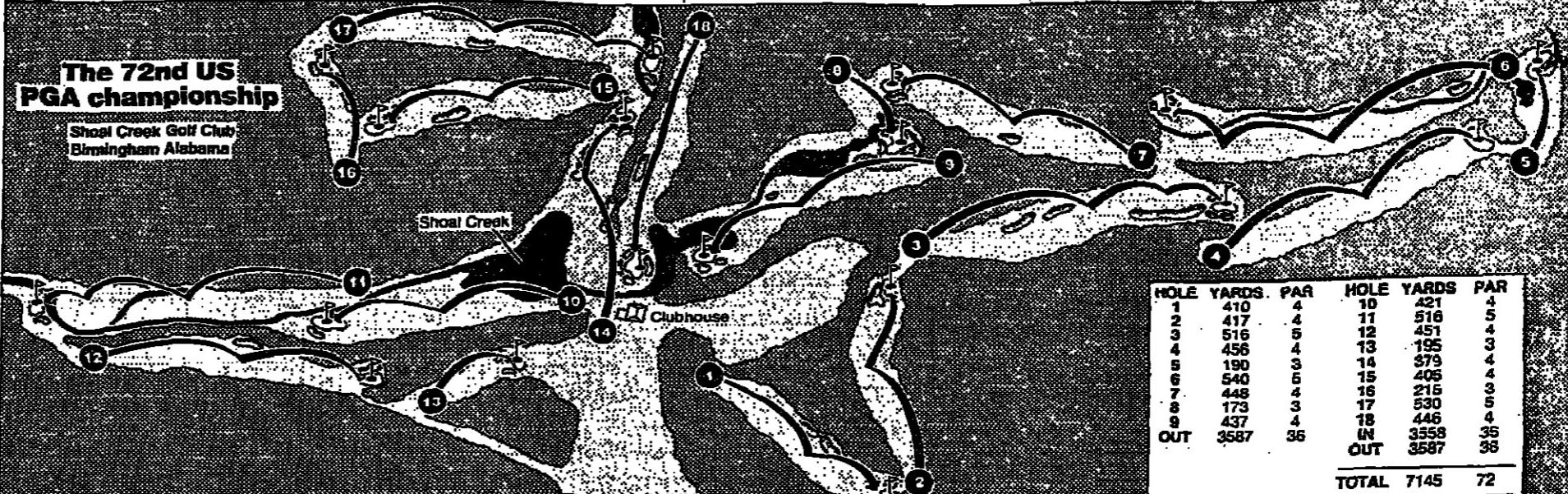
Ballesteros would do well to remember his roots when he moves to the first tee here. His has never been a clandestine act but one so openly served that both player and spectators were galvanised by the brilliance of his game.

There have been moments, though precious few, when it has seemed he might revive those formative years when, as the winner of the Open Championship in 1979 and 1984, and the Masters in 1980 and 1983, he set the standard.

There has always been the suspicion that Ballesteros could change. On a flight from London to Malaga several years ago, he ventured the belief that life, so alone golf, could swing so dramatically so as to quell the impetuosity and spirit of youth. He said: "When you meet and marry a woman, you have a special love for her and that love continues — but as the years go by, and I am sure people will understand, there is a different meaning to that love. It is not different to all get the same excitement from the competition, but you cannot expect, as the years roll on, to have the same feelings. We all grow older."

Ballesteros is 33. He can take comfort from the knowledge that Nicklaus won seven of his 18 professional majors beyond age but little from knowing Tom Watson won the last of his eight when aged 33. What it might need is for Ballesteros to revive that same reckless disregard for danger, so reminiscent of Arnold Palmer, that he brought with him into the game.

I refuse to believe that a talent as pure as Ballesteros should leave the game without having won the US Open or the US PGA Championship. It might be asking too much of Ballesteros to flex his muscles, hit every shot flat out and go



HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO THE SHOAL CREEK COURSE

HOLE 1 (410 yards, par 4): Fairway bunkers in the landing area and the three-inch rough demand an accurate drive. Fairway bunkers have been rebuilt and a new one added near the green.

HOLE 2 (417 yards, par 4): Not a demanding dogleg but a demanding fairway. A slight left-to-right fairway bend demands the preferred shot but if the ball lands too much there is trouble on the right in the rough and trees. Most will probably use a driver setting up a six or seven-iron second shot on an eight or nine-iron to the green.

HOLE 3 (517 yards, par 5): First of the short holes and one of the prettiest on the course with its mountain backdrop. Toughness pin placement is high and tight, but a longer drive will catch some leeves during the week. A driver off the tee still leaves anything from a four-iron to a five-iron.

HOLE 4 (456 yards, par 4): The longest of the par fours demands an accurate tee shot to set up no less than a five or six-iron — probably more three and four-irons — to the green. Bunkers on the course, no bunkers on the tee side, the green sets up any number of interesting placements.

HOLE 5 (190 yards, par 3): First of the prettiest holes on the course with its mountain backdrop. Toughness pin placement is high and tight, but a longer drive will catch some leeves during the week. A driver off the tee still leaves anything from a four-iron to a five-iron.

HOLE 6 (540 yards, par 5): Another par five and one of the most interesting holes on the course. Shoal Creek does not play twice off the tee and near the green. A long drive may get the player home in two with a fairway wood. Most will lay-up with a four or five-iron, leaving a wedge to the green for a possible one-putt birdie.

HOLE 7 (448 yards, par 4): Second

HOLE 8 (173 yards, par 3): The shortest par three but difficult because of large bunkers front right and back left and water on three sides. The green has been brought right up to the water on the left, and a long fairway wood or one-iron to the middle of the green and hope to make par, a good score.

HOLE 9 (437 yards, par 4): Slight dogleg left. Three traps have been set in the left rough and the turning point of the dogleg. The hole could be played left to right before but no more. Some will hit a three-wood off the tee for accuracy, attempting to hook it into position for a five or six-iron second shot.

HOLE 10 (401 yards, par 4): New tee allows for a gallery space on the homeward nine and around the 18th green. The drive is over water now and the left-to-right shot is back in play, giving a chance to play out the driver to set up a six or seven-iron to a three- or four-iron before it will need a three or four-iron to a hole that has been strengthened.

HOLE 11 (516 yards, par 5): One of the best birdie chances on the course. Seven eagles were made here in 1984 but there have been none since. A driver off the tee is over water. Long fairway bunker on the right and on the left a three-wood or one-iron to the green. Shoal Creek comes into play on the right.

HOLE 12 (437 yards, par 4): The shortest par four but perhaps the most picturesque hole on the course. Seven eagles were made here in 1984 but there have been none since. A driver off the tee is over water. Long fairway bunker on the right and on the left a three-wood or one-iron to the green. Driver off the tee will set up a two-shot hole with fairway wood or one-iron.

HOLE 13 (451 yards, par 4): Second longest hole on the course. A driver off the tee will set up a short shot to the green because of water in front and to the right of the green. Driver off the tee will set up a two-shot hole with fairway wood or one-iron.

HOLE 14 (379 yards, par 4): The shortest par four but perhaps the most picturesque hole on the course. Seven eagles were made here in 1984 but there have been none since. A driver off the tee is over water. Long fairway bunker on the right and on the left a three-wood or one-iron to the green. Driver off the tee will set up a two-shot hole with fairway wood or one-iron.

HOLE 15 (404 yards, par 4): Shorter than 14, but a chance to pick up a stroke. There are lengthening bunkers on the right and a new 40-foot tree has added a problem on the right. A three-wood or one-iron off the tee leaves a short

over water.

HOLE 16 (215 yards, par 3): Another par three that has been strengthened by 20 yards and is likely to play much harder than the professionals remember. There is trouble all down the left and a deep bunker guarding the green. A driver off the tee will need a three or four-iron to a hole that has been strengthened.

HOLE 17 (530 yards, par 5): Beautiful par five has been shortened by some 20 yards to entice players to go for the green in two. No cages here and a pond to the left. Most will use a driver while some will lay-up with a three-wood.

HOLE 18 (446 yards, par 4): A superb finishing hole for a major championship. Long enough to require a driver but still a chance to lay-up. A driver off the tee is over water. Long fairway bunker on the right and on the left a three-wood or one-iron to the green which has a three-foot swat in the middle and is guarded on all sides by bunkers and by water on the left.

iron to a green cut out of the hillside. HOLE 19 (215 yards, par 3): Another par three that has been strengthened by 20 yards and is likely to play much harder than the professionals remember. There is trouble all down the left and a deep bunker guarding the green. A driver off the tee will need a three or four-iron to a hole that has been strengthened.

HOLE 20 (379 yards, par 4): The shortest par four but perhaps the most picturesque hole on the course. Seven eagles were made here in 1984 but there have been none since. A driver off the tee is over water. Long fairway bunker on the right and on the left a three-wood or one-iron to the green. Driver off the tee will set up a two-shot hole with fairway wood or one-iron.

HOLE 21 (404 yards, par 4): Shorter than 14, but a chance to pick up a stroke. Trouble down the left and a new 40-foot tree has added a problem on the right. A three-wood or one-iron off the tee leaves a short

STARTING TIMES

(US unless stated)	
12.40: K Schaff, J Thomsen, J	
12.45: S Rachels, D Johnson, J	
12.50: C Dachisen, L W Emery, J	
13.07: S Ingraham, G Cerulli, L	
13.16: K Perry, Isao Aoki (Japan), B	
Tennison, R. Mayfar, R Cochran, M	
Mohr (Zim), C Parry, Peter Senior	
13.34: M Reid, J D Blake, D	
Peoples, M McCumber, M Donald, M	
Hatakeyama, S Jones, S Simpson, S Pate,	
14.10: S Verplank, D Frost (USA), T	
Anderson III, T. Stewart, F	
14.19: N Faldo (GB), H Irwin, P	
Stewart, F Couples, J-M Olazabal	
14.22: B Langer (W.G.), W Grady	
(Aus), T Kitay, 14.27: H Sutton, D Graham (Aus), H	
Green, 14.46: S Elkington (Aus), K Green, B	
14.56: G Strange, L Wadkins, A	
Palmer, 15.04: T Purzak, S Hoch, W Britton,	
15.13: L Nelson, J Nicklaus, R Twyman,	
15.31: C Beck, D Letts, P Jacobsen,	
15.40: M Brooks, I Baker-Finch	
(Aus), C Pavini, 15.45: J Stephenson (Wales), B	
O'Connor, T Simpson, 15.58: R Boyd, R Glider, J Pate,	
16.07: B Bryant, W Andrade, B R	
Brown, 16.16: M Lye, R Mediate, Jumbo	
Ozaki (Japan), 16.25: C Schmid, R Borowicz, R	
Malik, 16.34: R Ford, K Thompson, R	
Freeman, 16.52: D Fuller, N Caruso, C Tucker,	

17.01: P Fitzsimmons, H Gilliland, R	
Oberg, E Golin, E Whitman, S	
Peterson, 17.05: M Gove, L Gilbert, J C Blair	
III, 17.16: D Rummel, N Price (Zim), R	
Rafferty (N Ire), 17.37: F Zoeller, J Thorpe, R	
Fehr, 17.42: A Bean, C Perry, R Esses	
17.45: C Parsons, Peter Senior	
(Aus), 17.50: D Pooley, M Sullivan, B	
McCallister, 17.57: G Norman (Aus), P Azinger, T	
Watson, 18.01: D Foran, L Mizra, G	
18.04: S Ballesteros (Sp), J	
Maliff, R Floyd, 18.11: J Haas, G	
Sauers, D Hammond, 18.22: M O'Meara, B Fleisher, S	
Uley, 18.27: F Garza, W Levi, M Hubert,	
20.10: B Foxon, R Davis (Aus), E	
Farmer, 20.19: E Romero (Arg), Joe Ozaki	
(Japan), M Webber, 20.23: A Magee, L Roberts, M	
Jones (G), 20.27: K Alford, M Sanfilippo, K	
Stauffer, 20.46: D Quigley, K Hanefield, P	
Maliff, 20.52: C Hungate, S Bowen, R Hoyt,	
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SKIING

Mist plays havoc with Tomba run

MOUNT Hutt, New Zealand (Reuters) — The veteran West German, Peter Roth, won his first World Cup slalom after a first-leg challenge from Alberto Tomba faded here yesterday.

Roth, aged 29, fought his way through swirling mist to finish the first World Cup race of the 1990-91 season eight hundredths of a second ahead of the Austrian, Michael Tritschler, in a combined time of 1min 42.62sec.

Tomba set the fastest time in the first leg with a superb display of aggressive but flowing skiing, yet took only third overall with 1min 42.77sec, 1.02sec after a subdued second run. The mist, which shrouded the finish while the start 180 metres (590ft) up the mountain was beaten in sunshine, played havoc with the Italian. His countryman, newcomer Fabio de Crignis, was an outstanding fourth.

The race in New Zealand went ahead after fierce winds which forced the cancellation of slaloms on the two previous days.

RESULTS: 1. P. Roth (W.G.), 1min 42.62sec; 2. M. Tritschler (Austria), 1min 42.77sec; 3. A. Tomba (It), 1min 42.77sec; 4. D. Pooley (Switz), 1min 43.00, 8. T. Lederer (Austria), 1min 43.16; 9. G. Goracci (Italy), 1min 43.20; 10. F. De Crignis (Ita), 1min 43.65.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Touring team is on target in Vancouver

THE Great Britain team that is touring Canada moves to Ottawa today after sweeping the board in the leading individual and team events at the British Columbia championships in Vancouver (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes).

Consistent shooting over three days enabled one of the youngest members of the touring team, Dominic Harvey, aged 20, of London University, to take the grand aggregate, the overall championship of the meeting, with a three-point advantage over Andrew Tucker and John Bloomfield.

RESULTS: Grand

Neil Taylor, the bowler Hampshire allowed to slip away, will face his home county after a call-up by championship rivals

Middlesex kept in check by Bakker after opening stand

By RICHARD STREETON

BOURNEMOUTH (first day of three; Middlesex won toss); Middlesex have scored 288 for five wickets against Hampshire

MIDDLESEX and Hampshire, first and third in the championship table, have already grinded antlers in a match that could have an important bearing on the championship title. Gatting won what might prove to be a crucial toss, but the Hampshire attack bowed with commendable tightness in scorching sunshine and nobody was allowed to play a dominant innings.

In particular, Bakker, the Dutch fast bowler, consistently bowled with great heart and dismissed Haynes, Gatting and Brown, three of the first five in the Middlesex order. After the first 90 minutes, Middlesex never approached an average of three runs an over, which reflected much credit on Hampshire, who lost Connor early on with a knee injury.

Haynes and Roseberry provided a good foundation with their fifth three-figure opening stand together this summer, but neither looked fully con-

fident. Both edged Marshall unintentionally more than once. In addition, Roseberry was on 18 when he was missed at slip against Maru, and on 28 when he should have been caught at mid-on off Aylring.

The stand was worth 139 in 57 overs when Haynes was caught at short cover, via a pad, as he tried to drive. In Bakker's next over, Gatting edged a break-back into his wicket. Roseberry had come through the worst of his problems when he was out in the 68th over. He mis-read the bounce as Marshall bowled a slower ball and Maru took the catch at first slip.

Both Brown and Ramprakash stayed long enough to get a sight of the ball before they were dismissed after tea, Brown by Bakker and Ramprakash by Marshall. As a hard, dusty pitch becomes worn, Embrey and Tuftell, the spinners, can be expected to play important roles on Friday, but today the performance of Neil Taylor, drafted into the side as Neil Williams' stand-in, will attract the interest of the crowd.

Taylor, a medium pace bowler, lives at New Milton and Robinson had a restoration period on their hands. This they accomplished with a certain grim determination, although Newell played some tricky shots, twice striking Leftie through the covers in one over, and altogether hitting eight fours in his half-century. This came shortly after lunch, as did his dismissal.

He was bowled by Trump as he played a leg-side winning shot and heralded a period of panic in the Nottinghamshire dressing room. At 116 for one, Nottinghamshire were sitting comfortably. At 121 for five, disaster lurked just around the corner.

In quick succession Johnson was beaten all ends up, and Evans was leg-before, first ball. The last of these wickets fell to Mallerden; but it was Trump who reaped the main harvest.

Robinson, watchful as ever, held Notts together for more than four hours. Stephenson disciplined himself in the cause, although he could not forebear from hitting a six and six fours in his 34 before Swallow tempest him once too often and finally.

Thereafter, Mallerden ramped up the innings while all Somersets rejoiced in this unusual event.

Cooper retaliates with telling blows

By JACK BAILEY

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (first day of three; Nottinghamshire won toss); Nottinghamshire with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 200 runs behind Nottinghamshire

SOMERSET'S joy at bowling out Nottinghamshire — only the fifth time they have accomplished a feat of this kind during this championship campaign — was not exactly unconfined. For they themselves lost Roebeck and the prolific Cook before the close, both to Cooper.

The advantage gained by Mallerden's persistence, while he captured five wickets for 46 runs, and by Trump's early afternoon incursions when he took three wickets for four runs in a spell of eight balls, was largely dissipated.

You never can tell, but it seems that this may not be a high scoring match. The seam bowlers have reaped reward for line and length and the occasional ball has turned, although at no great pace.

Robinson's patient concentration and an accomplished innings by Newell produced the only scores of over 50 so far; and the two both had to bat hard for them.

The early loss of Broad, to a ball from Mallerden that lifted and left him, meant that Newell

Lancashire suffer once more as Lord prosters

By STEPHEN THORPE

KIDDERMINSTER (first day of three; Worcester won toss); Worcestershire have scored 395 for two wickets against Lancashire

THERE IS no respite for Lancashire in the wake of their Roses misfortune, as Worcestershire demanded toll in the sun on a beautiful Kidderminster batting strip. Gordon Lord, dropped by Hegg on 61 and aided by a tinder-dry outfield, made only his third championship hundred of an eight-year career, including 17 fours in a 70-ball innings full of lustre.

Basti D'Olivera, the Worcestershire coach, rates him highly on ability and attitude, which extends to volunteering for the Club and Ground side, and his contract renewal is now probably less doubt.

Further solid contributions came from Curtis, Damien Leatherdale — who made an attractive career-best 68 not out in his first championship match of the season — and Hick, a comparative failure with 67.

It is apt that Compass Health Care are sponsoring the game. After putting out a great strain and Neal, the Worcestershire captain, will miss the next fortnight after a high operation. Botham, too, may be out for up to two weeks.

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SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 9 1990

Gooch's new spirit is catching

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM GOOCH, England's most effective captain since Mike Brearley, would have had to mention a strangely unfamiliar word to his players as they prepared for today's second Cornhill Test match against India at Old Trafford.

He would have told his team to guard against complacency and if the term brought blank looks around the dressing-room, it shows how long it is since England could confidently contemplate three consecutive Test victories.

It last happened in 1981, when the astonishing overturn of Australia culminated in a third successive English win. Brearley was captain, Gooch and David Gower were in the side and the venue, ironically, was the same as today's.

Gooch's leadership may not have the mystique or the artfulness of Brearley's, but, against odds and general expectations, it has begun to produce similar results. England, a rabbit less than a year ago, look as if they could give any team in the world a decent game and perhaps beat most of them.

The background management of Ted Dexter and Micky Stewart, ridiculed during the loss of the Ashes, must be given credit for the revival but Gooch's part in it cannot be overstated. In his honest, uncomplicated way, he has been an inspiration and the fact that it is hard to find anyone who gives India a serious chance of an equalising win this week is proof enough of his influence.

For a man who once gave up captaining his county because it was ruining his batting form, Gooch's output this season is phenomenal. He has made 16 centuries and needs 238 more runs in a possible four innings to become the first man in history to score 1,000 Test runs in an English summer. The way he is playing, the record could be knocked off by tomorrow lunchtime.

Stewart, when asked to

employed by Gooch, because it seems that England are once again committed to using a sixth specialist batsman. John Morris, ahead of a fifth specialist bowler, Neil Williams.

India are leaning towards the selection of three spin bowlers, the second wrist spinner, Anil Kumble, joining Hirwan and Shastri. Rather than weaken the formidable depth of their batting, they are likely to omit Sharma, the seam bowler, leaving Tendulkar as a makeshift medium-pacer.

With such a combination, it is surely inconceivable that Azharuddin will repeat his Lord's tactics of choosing to field first. Marron's confidence that there will be some turn later ought to give the side winning the toss an appreciable advantage.

India, however, have not won any of their last 13 Tests on foreign soil and unless England bat with criminal neglect, they seem unlikely to break the sequence here.

As England bid for their fourth Test win of 1990, the winter business in Australia is assuming an ever-higher profile. About 15 further players are to receive availability letters in the course of the next 10 days. Most of these are more likely to be considered for an A team tour, although the planned trip to Pakistan is in serious doubt because of the unsettled political climate there.

The TCCB has invited tenders from companies wishing to advertise on England shirts during this winter's Test series in Australia. The move follows the new regulations agreed by the International Cricket Council in June, permitting discreet advertising to be worn by players on their clothing.

Companies have been asked to submit proposals by August 31 so that the design can be finalised before England leave for Australia on October 18. Cornhill Insurance has already been approached by the TCCB.

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A great catch for England: Gooch lending a hand during training at Old Trafford

Long on gracelessness and short on titanic myth

SIMON BARNES

WELL, what exactly is the point of sport, then? The boring answer is victory; winning isn't the main thing, it's the only thing, as American football has it.

But there is scope for a more complex answer. It involves things like style, working with (rather than against) personal foibles and inclinations, seeing the game in some sort of moral context above all. It involves the notion that sport is basically about joy.

Bisien Bedi, the Indian manager, believes that joy is part of the whole man's approach to cricket. "Test cricket is the ultimate, and it is our principal job to keep it alive and kicking," he said yesterday. "Win or lose, we would like this match to be played in the same spirit as the last. If we can woo spectators to the cricket, we have done our job."

India's go-for-it attitude at Lord's made it a truly memo-

ral Test match. There is also the point that India lost. What is the best option: to take part in one of the finest Test matches in history, or to escape with a draw?

Such a question is not worth asking around the England camp. The draw, obviously. What do you mean, joy? We're here to do a job of work.

The atmosphere of grim purposefulness has become part of the England set-up. There is no pretending that this is appealing, or charming, or heart-lifting. It is not supposed to be any of those things.

"Nothing's safe in this game," Micky Stewart, the England manager, said. "When you're on top, you must work particularly hard, and pay particular attention. This is a time when a lot of

people slip up. But we're going to work even harder to retain our momentum, to improve on what we have."

After this, the Micky Stewart national anthem, he went into a little coda about the captain, Graham Gooch, and how hard he works to prepare himself for each innings. "So no, there's no reason why he shouldn't carry on in the same way as he has been doing this summer." Since he has scored 762 runs in seven Test innings thus far, that's quite a thought: quite a tribute, as Stewart sees it, to Gooch's capacity for work.

Gooch is ever keen to demystify sport. For him, a Test match is a stage for the most humdrum of virtues: hard work, good sense, concentration, good technique. You hone your technique by hard work. You hone your concentration by being stunningly fit. There is no glamour attached to this, not at all: perish the thought.

It is a remarkable record:

It is all pretty charmless stuff. This may or may not be the right approach to cricket and life: what is not in dispute is that it has worked. Let us cast our minds back a year to the Old Trafford Test match of 1989.

I was there for that one, and it was obvious to all that we were witnessing the passing of an era: Gower "in charge", Botham (remember him?) out to a rash stroke, Dilley pouting. On the last day, the news of Gatting's South African tour broke. By the time the match was over and lost, it was clear that English cricket was being forced, screaming and kicking, into a new era.

No one has been won over by flair and charm since then. But on the credit side, England do keep winning Test matches. Since Gooch got the job in 1989, he has won three and drawn three. England's two defeats in the West Indies came when he was injured.

It is a remarkable record:

the more so when you consider that English cricket had become a joke. The incompetence, lack of morale, selectorial bungling, clear rift between captain and manager and general air of defeatedness had become something of a tradition.

The cricketers had been glamorous, in their way. Botham, and his effect on English and English cricket, will be the subject of scholarly works once historical perspective can be employed. All the players who had been involved in the extraordinary series of 1989 retained the traces of glamour: at least, they did so until Old Trafford, 1989.

Now it has all changed. Grim purposefulness is, at least, healthier for the players and more enjoyable for spectators than the self-conscious star qualities Botham brought to cricket after his trip to Hollywood in 1986. The Eng-

land team may be a graceless bunch nowadays, but at least it has become an effective one.

One must ask, however, whether this is enough. Must we take on board the notion that victory forgives all.

A footballer's duty is to his team: to the pursuit of victory. But the last football World Cup was marked by a pursuit of victory so single-minded that spectators the world over cried out for mercy. In sport, we believe we seek mere victory; but in fact, we seek something else as well.

This is doubly true in cricket. Spectators have always sought glory, beauty and joy at the cricket: they have sought great deeds and great men: they have sought to be present while titanic myths were played out before them, they did so until Old Trafford, 1989.

Now it has all changed. Grim purposefulness is, at least, healthier for the players and more enjoyable for spectators than the self-conscious star qualities Botham brought to cricket after his trip to Hollywood in 1986. The Eng-

Split decision favours Yates

BRITAIN'S athletics officials have dismissed claims that Matthew Yates should be selected from their European championship team. British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) officials yesterday discussed a complaint from the camp of Steve Heard, a rival contender, saying that Yates should not have been picked to run the 800 metres in Split at the end of the month because he had not achieved the qualifying standard. But after its meeting, the

Board decided to stick to its original choice.

The decision is bound to anger Heard, whose coach, Trevor Rodwell, made the official complaint. Heard feels he was unfairly deprived of the third place for the 800 metres because the goalposts were moved over the selection criteria.

But Tony Ward, the spokesman for the BAAB, said: "The complaint was thoroughly discussed, but it was considered to be a technical argument at

the end of the day." Ward said it was "very unfortunate" that there had been a mix-up at the selection meeting, when the board's statistician incorrectly stated that Yates had achieved the necessary 1 min 47sec.

Yates will be given the chance to achieve the standard before the deadline for European entries, on August 17, at Hengelo, in The Netherlands, this weekend and at the grand prix meeting in Zurich next week. Heard's sole consolation is that he will take Yates's place if he fails to make the standard. Otherwise, there was only condolence from Ward: "I have every sympathy for Steve's position," he said.

Steve Cram has chosen a low-key meeting to launch his crash programme to regain form and fitness in time for the European championships. Cram, named for the 1,500 metres in Britain's team despite pulling out of the final of the trial in Birmingham, will run in Grosseto, Italy, on Monday and at the Pearl Assurance Games in Gateshead following Friday.

Cram believes he can get into shape for the championships, but has promised that he will pull out if he does not feel he can win a medal. Tony Morrell, involved in a clash with Steve Halliday at the trial, is the reserve.

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Christie suffers rare indignity

SESTRIERE, Italy (Reuters) — Linford Christie experienced the rare embarrassment of coming last at an international meeting here yesterday as the American sprinter, Michael Johnson, recorded the second fastest time of the year for the 200 metres. Britain's Olympic 100 metres silver medal winner finished a disappointing seventh in the event which is admittedly not his speciality.

Johnson, already the fastest man in the world this year after running 19.85 in Britain, ran 19.88 this time. He was aided both by a following wind of 1.5 metres a second and the reduced air resistance at this picturesque ski resort, 2,000 metres above sea level. But cold winds sweeping off the Italian Alps probably cost the marketing student, aged 22, a serious assault on the 11-year-old world record of the Italian, Pietro Mennea.

A poor curve did not help either. "I didn't do what I was supposed to do. I would have liked to get it [the world record] today," he said.

On a day of fast sprint times, Christie's notwithstanding, Leroy Burrell, benefiting from a vegetarian diet that has reduced his weight by 10 pounds (4.5kg), equalled the year's fastest 100 metres time of 9.96 set by himself in Lille in June. The American had defeated the Olympic champion, Carl Lewis, at the Goodwill Games and among those he beat this time was Christie, who was fifth in a more impressive 10.12.

A following wind of 1.2

metres a second clearly aided Burrell, who said that he had joined Lewis and a number of other team mates in the Santa Monica track club by following a strict vegetarian diet for the past six weeks.

"My weight fell from 190

pounds (86kg) to 180 pounds (81.6kg). Burrell said.

He is more comfortable at his new weight although he planned to relax the diet slightly by adding milk, eggs and white

meat to increase his protein intake.

The American, whose personal best of 9.94sec is only 0.02sec outside Lewis' world record, said he had felt optimistic about breaking his close friend's mark when he woke up. He said he had warmed up well and had not been adversely affected by the chilly conditions.

"I think I ran a little bit too tight," Burrell said. "As far as I'm concerned, if a world record comes it comes."

Colin Jackson made up for Christie's lapse by giving Britain a victory in the 110 metres hurdles. He had the same time of 13.12 as the American, Tony Dees but the Olympic silver medal winner and Commonwealth champion was given the verdict after judges examined a photograph.

Roger Kingdom, the double

Olympic champion and world record holder, finished a well-beaten third in 13.25 after crashing into several barriers.

Mervine Ottey, who said

earlier this year she believed

she could break the world

women's 200 record here,

was timed at 21.88, 0.08 outside

her own fastest time of the

year and 0.55 off the record.

The Jamaican, the world's top

woman sprinter over the past

two years, appeared to lose her

balance on the bend before

pulling away to win comfortably

from the American, Danette Young.

RESULTS FROM SESTRIERE

RESULTS IUS unless stated. Men: 100m: 1. L. Burrell, 9.96sec; 2. G. Kingdom, 10.04; 3. M. Johnson, 10.08; 5. L. Christie (GBR), 10.12; 10m hurdles: 1. C. Jackson (GBR), 13.12; 60m: 1. M. Johnson, 6.88; 2. L. Burrell, 6.91; 3. F. Head (GBR), 20.23; 3. F. Head (GBR), 20.32; 4. J. Rees (GBR), 20.34; 400m: 1. D. Everett, 44.52; 2. A. McLean (GBR), 44.53; 3. S. McLean (GBR), 44.54; 4. H. Williams (GBR), 44.55; 5. A. McLean (GBR), 44.56; 6. H. Williams (GBR), 44.57; 7. M. Christie (GBR), 44.58; 8. L. Burrell, 44.59; 9. J. Cuthbert (GBR), 44.60; 10. M. O'Bryan (GBR), 44.61; 11. J. Cuthbert (GBR), 44.62; 12. L. Christie (GBR), 44.63; 13. S. McLean (GBR), 44.64; 14. H. Williams (GBR), 44.65; 15. L. Burrell, 44.66; 16. M. Christie (GBR), 44.67; 17. S. McLean (GBR), 44.68; 18. H. Williams (GBR), 44.69; 19. L. Burrell, 44.70; 20. M. Christie (GBR), 44.71; 21. H. Williams (GBR), 44.72; 22. S. McLean (GBR), 44.73; 23. L. Burrell, 44.74; 24. M. Christie (GBR), 44.75; 25. H. Williams (GBR), 44.76; 26. S. McLean (GBR), 44.77; 27. L. Burrell, 44.78; 28. M. Christie (GBR), 44.79; 29. H. Williams (GBR), 44.80; 30. S. McLean (GBR), 44.81; 31. L. Burrell, 44.82; 32. M. Christie (GBR), 44.83; 33. H. Williams (GBR), 44.84; 34. S. McLean (GBR), 44.85; 35. L. Burrell, 44.86; 36. M. Christie (GBR), 44.87; 37. H. Williams (GBR), 44.88; 38. S. McLean (GBR), 44.89; 39. L. Burrell, 44.90; 40. M. Christie (GBR), 44.91; 41. H. Williams (GBR), 44.92; 42. S. McLean (GBR), 44.93; 43. L. Burrell, 44.94; 44. M. Christie (GBR), 44.95; 45. H. Williams (GBR), 44.96; 46. S. McLean (GBR), 44.97; 47. L. Burrell, 44.98; 48. M. Christie (GBR), 44.99; 49. H. Williams (GBR), 45.00; 50. S. McLean (GBR), 45